

the Stranger's **SIFF** 2016 NOTES

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Peter Dee | THEATER

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**ON THE
BOARDS**

REVIEWS

THE 1,000 EYES OF DR. MADDIN

DOC France, 2015, 65 min
U.S. PREMIERE
 Dir. Yves Montmayeur

Stranger Says: No-frills documentary and a good primer on Guy Maddin, if you don't know him, but ultimately nonessential. Aside from confirming the fact that all directors wear scarves, the doc addresses Maddin's weird aesthetic but not the reason why he wants to live in the fake past and indulge a lot of incest narratives. Excellent scene of a ghost giving a blowjob, though, but you can just track down his movie *Glorious* for that. (RICH SMITH) **SIFF Says:** The films of Guy Maddin are as deliriously eccentric and mildly perverse as the man himself, whose singular career and cornucopia of influences are explored in interviews alongside kindred spirits like the Quay Brothers, John Waters, Udo Kier, and Isabella Rossellini.

SIFF FILM CENTER Sat June 4, 9 pm

SIFF FILM CENTER Sun June 5, 8:30 pm

11:55

USA, 2016, 80 min
 Dir. Ari Issler, Ben Snyder

Stranger Says: Minutes after stepping off the bus home, a returning Marine (co-writer Victor Almanzar) finds himself swept back up in a longstanding beef between gangs. The depiction of cycles of violence on a community is definitely sincere, but the predictability of the story unfortunately tamps down some of the good intentions. The way that the more recognizable actors in the cast (Julia Stiles, John Leguizamo) tend to show up for one or two scenes and then vanish is a little distracting, too. (ANDREW WRIGHT) **SIFF Says:** Featuring many of the best Latino actors working today, this affecting personal crime drama is set in an economically depressed factory town, where a recently discharged U.S. Marine must square off against the violent past he'd left behind.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 5:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 2 pm

13 MINUTES

Germany, 2016, 108 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
 Dir. Oliver Hirschbiegel

SIFF Says: From the director of *Downfall* comes a breathtaking real-life thriller about resistance fighter Georg Elser, whose 1939 Hitler assassination attempt may have changed history—if not for a discrepancy of a few minutes.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 7:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Mon May 23, 6:30 pm

THE ACADEMY OF MUSES

Spain, 2015, 92 min
 Dir. José Luis Guerín

SIFF Says: Eclectic Spanish filmmaker José Luis Guerín inventively explores the fine lines separating fact, fiction, art, and life through the story of an ethically dubious university professor who uses the precepts of ancient literature as an excuse for his dalliances.

PACIFIC PLACE Mon June 6, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 4:30 pm

★ ACTION COMANDANTE ★

DOC South Africa, 2016, 90 min
WORLD PREMIERE
 Dir. Nadine Angel Cloete

Stranger Says: Ashley Kriel is to South Africa what Fred Hampton is to the United States. Both died young (Kriel, 20; Hampton, 21), both were killed by law enforcers, both developed a mature political consciousness at a preternaturally early age. *Action Comandante* employs a vivid mix of interviews and old and new footage to capture the very brief time Kriel spent in life (between 1966 and 1987). He was politically active for almost seven of those years. His sense of the injustice of the apartheid



AMAMA: WHEN A TREE FALLS

A **SIGNED CAPSULE** means a *Stranger* critic has seen the film. A ★ means it's good. **DON'T MISS!** means it's great.

system was so unusually intense, he left a strong impression on the people he met and worked with. This kind of intensity is needed for the youth of our day to challenge climate change. You must protest and arrest the market-driven system that's destroying the world which contains your entire future. Amandla! Awethu! (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: The family and friends of South African anti-apartheid freedom fighter Ashley Kriel, who was shot and killed by police at age 20, reflect on how he became a symbol of youth resistance in the 1980s.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 7:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 12:30 pm

AN AFTERNOON WITH MOLLY SHANNON

90 min

SIFF Says: Molly Shannon's penchant for theatrical comedy inspired some of *Saturday Night Live*'s most famous characters from 1995-2001, including Mary Catherine Gallagher and Sally O'Malley. Shannon went on to appear in several films such as *Superstar*, *Wet Hot American Summer*, *Marie Antoinette*, last year's SIFF favorite *Me, Earl and the Dying Girl*, and the TV series *Glee* and *Enlightened*. Afternoon with ticket includes a screening of *Other People*.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun May 22, 4:30 pm

★ AISHA ★

Tanzania, 2015, 112 min
 Dir. Chande Omar

Stranger Says: "Cities are becoming more female," writes Leo Hollis in his book *Cities Are Good for You*. "...The rise of women in the city is perhaps one of the least-discussed aspects of the urban future." Cities liberate women from the stupidity of men and motherhood. This film is about just that—a city woman who has been liberated by the city (she lives in Dar es Salaam with a progressive husband). But her world changes when she has to return to her village to save her young sister from a marriage to the village's richest idiot. She wants her sister to move to the city, get an education, and become independent. But her plans are destroyed by a horrible crime. Rural people sometimes. The film has very good performances and a plot that's handled with a great amount of care. Aisha covers the same themes as the documentary *Marzia, My Friend*,

which is also in this year's festival, but it's less bleak. (CHARLES MUDEDE) **SIFF Says:** When a Tanzanian businesswoman experiences a brutal attack upon returning to her home village, she discovers that friends and family are willing to turn a blind eye to the abuse that women suffer and decides to fight for justice no matter the consequence.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 4 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Tue May 31, 6 pm

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sun June 5, 6 pm

ALL THE BIRDS HAVE FLOWN SOUTH

USA, 2016, 98 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Joshua H. Miller, Miles B. Miller

SIFF Says: This unsettling psycho-thriller follows a disturbed man grieving for his mother who begins obsessing over a down-on-her-luck waitress (Joey Lauren Adams, *Chasing Amy*)—even taking care of her abusive, terminally ill husband.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 11:30 am

★ ALONE ★

South Korea, 2015, 99 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Park Hong-min

Stranger Says: There is a moment between life and death, a moment which is, one imagines, the zone of the liberated soul. Here, the ethereal stuff of the body is suspended before slipping into the darkness of nothingness. *Alone*, a South Korean film by Park Hong-min, is a thriller set in this liminal zone. It opens with a youngish man, Su-min (Lee Juwon), witnessing and photographing an attack or killing on the nearby rooftop of a building in a dense and poor quarter of a vast city. The killers spot Su-min. He ducks and flees. But he is soon found and, we think, killed. But then he is alive again and dealing with what seem like episodes from his life. The camera, like Su-min, is very active. It roams the steps and alleys in search for a way out of this mad, mad world. (CHARLES MUDEDE) **SIFF Says:** A young man finds himself trapped in a living nightmare where he is hunted down again and again in director Park Hong-min's bold, mind-altering psycho-thriller set amid the sprawling maze

of alleyways and stairwells in Seoul's gritty shantytown district.

PACIFIC PLACE Wed May 25, 9 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Tue May 31, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 4 pm

★ AMAMA: WHEN A TREE FALLS ★

Spain, 2015, 103 min

Dir. Asier Altuna

Stranger Says: When a child is born into this Basque farming family, a tree is planted. The grandmother (Amama, in Basque) then paints the trunks of the grandchildren's trees red, white, and black in a ceremonial tradition—for the chosen son, the lazy child, and the devil. The protagonist of this film is of course the devil, and an artist. Relationships are visually represented and acted out through this little forest; the landscape is destroyed and transformed (the movie's subtitle is *When a Tree Falls*) in a way that elegantly portrays changing familial ties alongside the accelerating demise of farming culture. (JULIA RABAN) **SIFF Says:** The rustic Basque farming traditions of the caserio are lyrically explored it via a family struggling to maintain their disappearing traditions in the wake of the inevitable change that comes when the lives of parents and children begin to diverge.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Mon May 23, 9 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 3 pm

★ AMERICANA ★

USA, 2016, 81 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Zachary Shedd

Stranger Says: Just when you think this film is going to be a weak-ass *8 1/2* except about editing instead of directing, it becomes a whispery and lugubrious murder mystery. Mostly it's a beautiful light painting of Urban Outfitters models sitting in nice kitchens, cozy bars, and parks. They drink vodka, feel bad about it, and brood. Will the homespun detective find the person who killed his sister? Only if he broods hard enough. (RICH SMITH) **SIFF Says:** Using the style of the paranoid nail-biters of the 1970s to tell a personal story of addiction and its consequences, this modern-day San Francisco noir shadows

an alcoholic film editor as he struggles to uncover the truth about his sister's murder.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 4 pm

ANGRY INDIAN GODDESSES

India, 2015, 104 min

Dir. Pan Nalin

SIFF Says: Riotous and refreshingly honest, this empowering female buddy comedy takes place during a beachside bachelorette party, where six women from diverse backgrounds examine what it means to be a woman in contemporary India.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 23, 7 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Fri May 27, 6 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat May 28, 6:30 pm

★ ANOTHER EVIL ★

USA, 2016, 92 min

Dir. Carson Mell

Stranger Says: What do you do when your weekend house is haunted? Hire a ghost hunter to come in and get rid of the pesky spirits. (One has to wonder if this is a jerky move. Can't you just try to get along with them?) But now what's worse, having an awkward weirdo in your house with you for a week or the original haunting problem? Dan (Steve Zissis) and Os (Mark Proksch) spend some forced time together, and things deteriorate from there. *Another Evil* is a different kind of horror film, with more total weirdness and less blood and guts. (GILLIAN ANDERSON) **SIFF Says:** After discovering the undead living in their vacation home, a worried dad (Steve Zissis, *Togetherness*) hires an "industrial-grade exorcist" (Mark Proksch) whose hilarious, unorthodox methods become unhinged as he descends into a demonic madness.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 28, 11:59 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon June 6, 9:30 pm

ANTONIA

Italy, 2015, 96 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Ferdinando Cito Filomarino

SIFF Says: This sumptuous and dreamy biopic about posthumously celebrated Italian poet Antonia Pozzi explores the artist's passions, enlightenment, sexuality, and torments as a young girl in 1930s Milan as she struggles to find her own voice in her short life.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 2:30 pm

ANTS ON A SHRIMP

DOC Netherlands, 2016, 88 min

Dir. Maurice Dekkers

SIFF Says: Charismatic Copenhagen-based chef René Redzepi, whose Noma has been hailed as one of the world's best restaurants, embarks on the thrilling, unprecedented challenge of relocating the restaurant and its entire staff from Denmark to Tokyo.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 20, 4:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 23, 7 pm

THE ARCHITECT

USA, 2016, 95 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Jonathan Parker

SIFF Says: Parker Posey and Eric McCormack star in this bizarrely comic tale of love, obsession, and deceit as a couple who hires a modernist architect to build their dream house, not realizing he has every intent to follow his own design—and desires.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 20, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 21, 9:30 pm

ARIANNA

Italy, 2015, 84 min

U.S. PREMIERE

Dir. Carlo Lavagna

SIFF Says: A gentle and introspective look at intersexuality and emotional isolation from Italy telling the story of a young woman

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who, as she becomes more aware of her body and sexuality, also becomes more aware that something may be amiss.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 5:30 pm

AS I OPEN MY EYES

Tunisia, 2015, 102 min
Dir. Leyla Bouzid

SIFF Says: On the eve of the Jasmine Revolution, a young Tunisian woman must balance the expectations of her family, who would love to see her go to medical school, with her creative life as a singer in a politically charged rock band that is just beginning to get noticed.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 1:30 pm

AS YOU ARE

USA, 2016, 105 min
Dir. Miles Joris-Peyrafitte

Stranger Says: What's at the center of this uneven feature film (beautiful exteriors, ugly interiors), which is set in the grunge years in a working-class part of a town, and concerns two sexually confused teenage males, their parents (the mother of one teenager is having a lot of hot sex with the father of the other), and a crime in the woods? Guns. The story in *As You Are*, which is sustained by strong performances, is only possible in a society that has little or no gun control. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Two grungy male teenage loners form an immediate bond through their shared love of Kurt Cobain, pot-smoking, and skipping school, then add a female friend to the mix, in this atmospheric teen-angst drama-cum-mystery tale set in the early '90s.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 9 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 27, 4 pm

ATLANTIC HEART

Cape Verde, 2016, 87 min
Dir. Robbie McCallum

Stranger Says: Twenty-five years ago, I walked out of a jumbo jet and into the hot night air of Cape Verde. This was a refueling stop for a South African Airlines flight from Johannesburg to New York City. I walked down the steps and toward an area that had a little business. All were closed and in a building that had fallen into ruin. A dog appeared from and almost immediately disappeared into the dark. Thirty minutes later, I was back on the jumbo, listening to the rising roar of its engines. That very brief and almost totally dark moment in Cape Verde received lots of light and detail from the movie *Atlantic Heart*, the first feature-length film made in that country of islands. It's about a young man, his very cute puppy, his always drunk father, and an island flower named Telma. All around Telma's beauty are homes and businesses that look very much like that building I saw at the refueling stop. Those familiar with Ramin Bahrani's second feature film, *Chop Shop*, will immediately recognize stylistic and thematic similarities. *Atlantic Heart* also has a lively score. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: After losing their dog amid the chaos of Mardi Gras on the African island country of Cape Verde, teenage siblings Lucas and Telma begin a quest that leads them through bars, bordellos, and back streets, exposing them to the harsh

realities of island life.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 3:30 pm

**AUTHOR:
THE JT LEROY STORY**

DOC USA, 2016, 110 min
Dir. Jeff Feuerzeig

SIFF Says: Uncover the fascinating truth behind wunderkind JT LeRoy, whose tough, sordid memoirs about life as a teenage male hustler captivated the literary world—until he was revealed to be a fictional creation of 40-year-old female writer Laura Albert.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Mon May 30, 3 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 6:30 pm

★ AWAITING ★

Spain, 2015, 96 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Daniela Fejerman

DON'T MISS!

Stranger Says: The couple from a rich Western European country (Nora Navas and Francesc Garrido, in terrific performances) arrive in a poor Eastern European country to choose the child they've been preparing to adopt. They look weary, but first thing, they joke and have sex; they're happy. Gradually, they find themselves deeper in the country, facing corruption, deceit, and violence. They begin to unravel. This movie is a thriller, not just a drama. It's about the lengths we'll go to when we can't bear our own children, and about how far is too far. No wonder it rings so emotionally true: Director Daniela Fejerman went through it herself a few years before making this fictional film. (JEN GRAVES)

SIFF Says: This poignant exploration of the emotionally fraught business of trans-national adoption follows a middle-aged Spanish couple on a journey to bring home an orphan from Lithuania, where the indifference and bureaucracy of the process puts a strain on their relationship.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 8:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 11, 1:30 pm

**B-MOVIE BINGO
PRESENTS RAMBU: THE
INTRUDER**

Indonesia, 1986, 120 min
Dir. Jopi Burnama

SIFF Says: Experience this utterly bizarre Indonesian *Rambo* rip-off while competing for one-of-a-kind prizes as the comedy team Wolf Choir presents a unique interactive blend of live comedy, high-stakes bingo, and the best in terrible action movies from the VHS era.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 4, 11 pm

THE BACCHUS LADY

South Korea, 2016, 110 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. E J-yong

Stranger Says: Yes, this film is full of charm. Yes, it is about an old prostitute who catches the clap. Yes, it is set in South Korea (one of the richest countries in the world), and it also reveals the sharp class conflicts in that society. Yes, you will quietly laugh at all of the world-weary things the old prostitute has to say about her body, her clients, and life in general. The story also has a little boy in it. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: An elderly prostitute attracts johns in the wealthy parts

of Seoul, arranging quickie motel trysts, in director E J-yong's sympathetic portrait that shines a light on the darker side of a real and growing underground industry in South Korea.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 8:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Thu June 9, 4:15 pm

**★ BANG! THE BERT
BERNS STORY ★**

DOC USA, 2016, 94 min
Dir. Brett Berns, Bob Sarles

Stranger Says: If you're still sad that season one of *Vinyl* was such a bummer, I heartily recommend this lively, knowing documentary about the intersection of early rock 'n' roll and organized crime, and the troubling life of the hustler/genius/impresario behind many of your actual favorite soul, R&B, and pop songs of all time. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Steven Van Zandt narrates the life of Bert Berns, the influential songwriter and producer behind such classics as "Twist and Shout" and "Piece of My Heart," whose 1960s record label launched the careers of Van Morrison and Neil Diamond.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 4:30 pm

**BATTLEDREAM
CHRONICLE**

Martinique, 2015, 108 min
Dir. Alain Bidard

Stranger Says: I did everything I could to enjoy this film, the first animated feature from Martinique, a French-speaking Caribbean island. I'm an Afrofuturist, I love seeing black people doing futurist things. But *Battledream Chronicle*, which is directed by Alain Bidard and certainly has lots of my kind of thing (black people defying gravity, black people cracking codes in cyberspace, black people with mirrorshades), looks too much like a videogame and the battle scenes go on for way too long. Bidard is a talented animator but he needed this work to be written and directed by someone who can tell a story. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: In a futuristic world where humans have been reduced to virtual-reality slaves, a young woman fights for her freedom in a dazzling and inventive sci-fi adventure, the first feature-length animated film from the Caribbean island of Martinique.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Tue May 31, 9 pm

ARK LODGE CINEMA Mon June 6, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu June 9, 9:45 pm

**★ BATTLE OF
SEVASTOPOL ★**

Ukraine, 2015, 122 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Sergey Mokritskiy

Stranger Says: Glossy and gorgeous glorification of the Soviet war machine wrapped up in a feminist package, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Russian Military-Historical Society, and with support of the Ukrainian State film society. But the Soviets might deserve a little glory—they did win the war, and the women-driven war narrative is fresh. Good blood and guts battle scenes, but no piss and shit. A+ sniper duels and surprisingly moving tragic romantic subplots. The jokes are bad, but the cinematography makes up for it—washed-out colors with occasional

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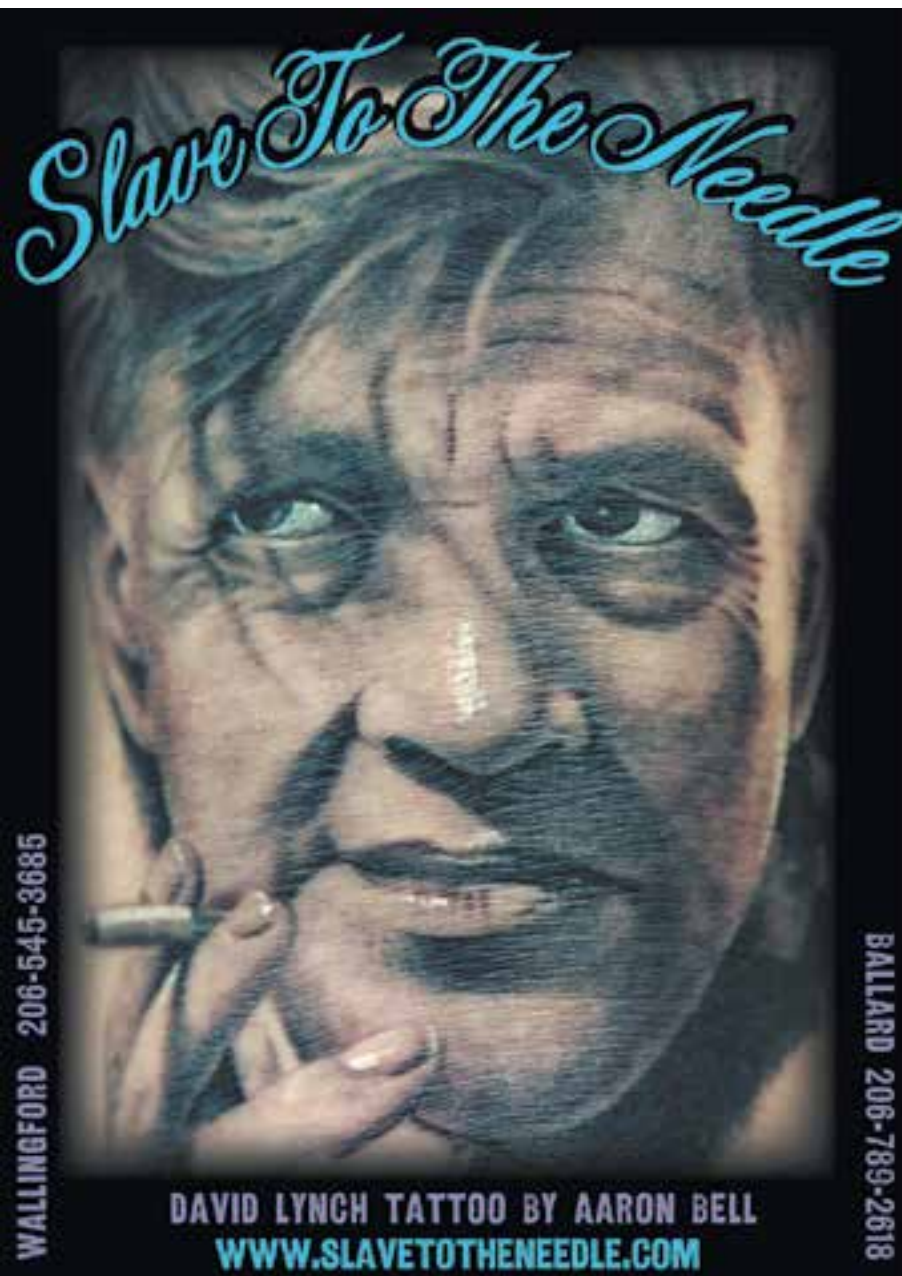


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Paul McCarthy, White Snow and Horse on Ground, 2005. Wood and stone. Image courtesy of Paul McCarthy and House of Arts, Photo: Mike Winkler.

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intensities of red. (RICH SMITH) **SIFF Says:** An epic war biopic about Ukrainian sharpshooter Lyudmila Pavlichenko, who earned the nickname “Lady Death” for her prowess in battle, was sent by Joseph Stalin in 1942 to convince the U.S. to join the war, and formed a lasting friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Fri June 3, 3:30 pm*
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER *Sat June 4, 6 pm*
ARK LODGE CINEMA *Sun June 5, 3:30 pm*

BEFORE THE STREETS
Canada (Québec), 2016, 97 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Chloé Leriche

Stranger Says: Not too far estranged from Matthieu Kassovitz's La Hainein story style, *Before the Streets* is a variation of the banlieue story set in Quebec, Canada, and tells of the struggles of a young man in a Manawan reserve. What makes this slice-of-life movie compelling isn't a rigorous pace or high energy (which is good, because this tale is told slowly and meticulously), but its earnest portrayal of what is being filmed. With a beautiful songbook and an indigenous cast, the strength of this picture is in its staid representation of the people. (JACOB LICHTY) **SIFF Says:** Gripping and spiritual, the first film set among the Atikamekw communities of Québec, featuring an indigenous cast speaking in their native tongue, is the redemptive story of a young man who returns to his Native traditions after a robbery ends in tragedy. **SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN** *Sat June 4, 8:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Sun June 5, 12 pm*

BEING 17
France, 2016, 116 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Andre Techine

SIFF Says: Bullying between two French boys turns into an erotic awakening in a remarkable collaboration between filmmakers André Téchiné (*Wild Reeds*) and Céline Sciamma (*Girlhood*), which explodes preconceptions about teenage males. **SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN** *Thu June 9, 7 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Sun June 12, 6 pm*

BELLE AND SEBASTIAN, THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES
France, 2015, 97 min
Dir. Christian Duguay

SIFF Says: In a new chapter of the beloved saga of Belle and Sebastian (SIFF 2014), the now-10-year-old hero and his brave, shaggy dog embark on an exciting adventure to rescue Sebastian's mom, who is lost after her plane crashes deep in the forest. **MAJESTIC BAY** *Fri May 20, 4:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Sun May 22, 11 am*
SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE *Sat May 28, 1 pm*

BETWEEN SEA AND LAND
Colombia, 2016, 98 min
Dir. Manolo Cruz, Carlos del Castillo

SIFF Says: Winner of Best Film and Best Actor at the Sundance Film Festival, this breathtaking tour de force from actor and filmmaker Manolo Cruz is the tender story of a young man in a small Colombian village who may be immobile due to a neurological

THE BLACK HEN



disorder, but is unbound in spirit. **SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN** *Sun June 5, 6 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Tue June 7, 4 pm*

BEWARE THE SLENDERMAN
DOC USA, 2016, 114 min
Dir. Irene Taylor Brodsky

SIFF Says: An insightful, infuriating, heartbreaking, and gripping true-crime documentary delving into the brutal stabbing of a 12-year-old Wisconsin girl by her best friends, who claimed they were influenced by an internet bogeyman known as the Slenderman. **SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN** *Sat May 28, 9 pm*
SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE *Sun May 29, 12:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Mon May 30, 12:30 pm*

BEYOND MY GRANDFATHER ALLENDE
DOC Chile, 2015, 100 min
Dir. Marcia Tambutti Allende

SIFF Says: Over 40 years after Chilean President Salvador Allende was deposed in a military coup that led to his suicide, his granddaughter embarks on a surprising and heartfelt journey to uncover the sometimes-painful memories that reveal the man behind the leader. **SIFF FILM CENTER** *Sat June 4, 6:30 pm*
SIFF FILM CENTER *Sun June 5, 6 pm*

THE BIG ROAD
China, 1935, 104 min
Dir. Sun Yu

SIFF Says: Significant for its progressive ideals, bold frankness, and striking musical interludes, this classic of Chinese silent cinema dives into life among a team of rough-and-ready itinerant highway builders. With a live score performed by Donald Sosin. **SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN** *Tue May 31, 7 pm*

BIG SONIA
DOC USA, 2016, 90 min
Dir. Leah Warshawski, Todd Soliday

SIFF Says: Diva. Enigma. Holocaust survivor. Meet 90-year-old Kansas City tailor-shop owner Sonia Warshawski. She may be just shy of five feet tall, but her enormous, sparkling personality and stirring stories of survival have earned her the nickname “Big Sonia.” **SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** *Sat June 4, 6 pm*
PACIFIC PLACE *Sun June 5, 6:30 pm*

THE BITTER STEMS
Argentina, 1956, 90 min
Dir. Fernando Ayala

SIFF Says: Guilt takes a toll on a down-on-his-luck journalist after he commits the perfect murder in a rarely seen Argentinian classic, restored in 35mm and introduced by Eddie Muller of the Film Noir Foundation—whose Noir City Film Festival returns to SIFF

Cinema this July. **SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN** *Sat June 4, 2 pm*

THE BLACKCOAT'S DAUGHTER
USA, 2015, 93 min
Dir. Osgood Perkins

SIFF Says: Dripping with gothic atmosphere and chilling performances from Emma Roberts (*American Horror Story*) and Kiernan Shipka (*Mad Men*), this demonic horror tale is set at an all-girls prep school tormented by an evil, invisible force. **LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS** *Fri May 20, 8:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sat May 21, 9:30 pm*

★ **THE BLACK HEN** ★
Nepal, 2015, 90 min
Dir. Min Bahadur Bham

Stranger Says: Two boys in 2001 Nepal try to find a beloved pet chicken as their life swirls around them, upended by a Maoist insurgency. The film's centerpiece is the frustration and despair of war as experienced by blameless, uninvolved children. Balancing political depictions and commentary with the innocence of childhood, *The Black Hen* is an unassuming and powerful drama. (JULIA RABAN) **SIFF Says:** In a Nepalese village ravaged by civil war, two boys from different castes become close friends while bonding over raising an egg-laying hen, but find their plans derailed and their lives upended as they become caught in a clash between fighting forces. **SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN** *Mon June 6, 8:30 pm*
ARK LODGE CINEMA *Tue June 7, 9 pm*

BODY
Poland, 2015, 90 min
Dir. Malgorzata Szumowska

SIFF Says: The stories of a hardened coroner, his angsty teen daughter, and a supernaturally inclined therapist who claims she can communicate with the dead are intertwined for a complex tale of loneliness and belief, infused with a strong dose of black humor. **LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS** *Fri May 20, 6:30 pm*
PACIFIC PLACE *Tue May 24, 9 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Sun June 5, 8:30 pm*

THE BODYGUARD
China, 2016, 99 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Sammo Hung

SIFF Says: Hong Kong action legend Sammo Hung directs and stars as a retired bodyguard, struggling with the onset of dementia, who must take down the mob in order to save a compulsive gambler (Andy Lau) whose daughter he has befriended. **IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** *Fri May 27, 8:30 pm*
PACIFIC PLACE *Mon May 30, 8:30 pm*

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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT

Belgium, 2015, 112 min
Dir. Jaco Van Dormael

SIFF Says: In this madcap religious satire from Jaco Van Dormael, all hell breaks loose when the daughter of God—who turns out to be a cantankerous, vindictive slob living in Brussels—informs Earth's mortals of the exact dates of their demise.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 3, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 2 pm

THE BRIDE

Spain, 2015, 95 min
Dir. Paula Ortiz

SIFF Says: A sumptuously shot adaptation of García Lorca's timeless tragedy *Bodas de Sangre* (*Blood Wedding*) about a soon-to-be bride enmeshed in a passionate love triangle who must choose between following her obligations or her heart.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 9:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 3, 1:30 pm

A BRIDE FOR RIP VAN WINKLE

Japan, 2016, 179 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Shunji Iwai

SIFF Says: Japanese director Shunji Iwai (*All About Lily Chou-Chou*) returns with a deceptively beautiful romance about a bored young woman obsessed with a new social-media site, where she makes a friend who encourages a series of questionable decisions.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Tue May 24, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu May 26, 3 pm

BUGS

DOC Denmark, 2016, 76 min
Dir. Andreas Johnsen

Stranger Says: Chefs Josh Evans and Ben Reade stand in the middle of the Australian bush holding Witchetty grubs—large wood-eating larvae of moths—that Evans will later describe as tasting of “roasted red peppers, garlic, and nuts.” Older Aboriginal women led the chefs here, and dug up the delicacies for the young men. “Can someone show us how to cook these?” Reade asks them. This scene repeats itself throughout the film, throughout the world. *Bugs* chronicles Evans's and Reade's international travels as part of a privately funded project exploring insects as a more sustainable protein for the industrialized world. But the film's heart is how it movingly captures each chef's personal journey to understanding the depth and value of local cuisines—the very ones threatened by global food systems. (ANGELA GARBES)

SIFF Says: A team of chefs from the Nordic Food Lab travel the world in search of the future of sustainable food—insects!—to showcase the versatility and deliciousness of grubs, ants, wasp nests, and crickets. Bee-larva ceviche, anyone?

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 4, 11 am

PACIFIC PLACE Sun June 5, 4 pm

★ BURN BURN BURN ★

United Kingdom, 2015, 106 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Chanya Button

Stranger Says: Lady Edith is the homely, lost sister on Downton Abbey, played by Laura

Carmichael. But in this female road-trip movie, Carmichael is Seph, the girl who gets all the action. Seph and Alex (the subtle Chloe Pirrie) are directed around England, Wales, and Scotland by their dead friend, Dan, who died young and suddenly and recorded his last wishes by instructional videos they play at each location. *Burn Burn Burn* starts out broad but gets better as the miles pass. It culminates, as things do, in the very good use of a trick crucifix. (JEN GRAVES)

SIFF Says: A female buddy-comedy road trip, aptly named after an excerpt from Kerouac's *On the Road*, *Burn Burn Burn* joins Seph and Alex as they stow their late friend's ashes in Tupperware and take off to fulfill his last wishes of being scattered across the UK.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 3, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 2 pm

CAFÉ SOCIETY

USA, 2016, 96 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Woody Allen

Stranger Says: People like to talk a lot of behind-the-back smack about SIFF's tendency toward mainstream fare, but in this city, at this precise moment, it's hard to think of a more transgressive, divisive film—or filmmaker—with which to open the festival than this one. (Also, it's worth remembering that one out of every five or six Allen films winds up being stunningly good.) (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Woody Allen's new film, set in 1930s Hollywood and New York City, is a bittersweet romance starring Jeannie Berlin, Steve Carell, Jesse Eisenberg, Blake Lively, Parker Posey, Kristen Stewart, Corey Stoll and Ken Stott.

MCCAW HALL Thu May 19, 7 pm

★ CAMERAPERSON ★

DOC USA, 2016, 102 min
Dir. Kirsten Johnson

Stranger Says: Ace documentary cinematographer Kirsten Johnson (*Happy Valley*, *Citizenfour*) fashions a memoir of sorts, with subjects ranging from boxing, childbirth, Michael Moore, and pretty much everything in between. The sheer amount of brief, narration-free clips on display is a bit daunting at first, but this collage approach gains a sneaky, mounting power, particularly when she begins to let details of her family's history unfurl in front of the lens. Really absorbing, with enough movies listed in the credits to keep you busy for weeks. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Documentary cinematographer Kirsten Johnson (*Citizenfour*, *Fahrenheit 9/11*) has spent decades traveling the world, amassing a treasure trove of footage that she has assembled into an insightful, visually bold memoir about the power of images.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 4 pm

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

USA, 2016, 120 min
Dir. Matt Ross

SIFF Says: Viggo Mortensen stars in a heartfelt story of unconventional family values as the devoted father of a brood of six who live off the grid in the wilds of Washington State, until events lead them back to the outside world for the

first time in decades.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 2:30 pm

CARNAGE PARK

USA, 2016, 86 min
Dir. Mickey Keating

SIFF Says: A treat for lovers of the bloody grindhouse cinema of the '70s, this harrowing psycho-thriller stars Pat Healy (*Cheap Thrills*) as an unhinged sniper who terrorizes a bank-robbing duo and their hostage after they stumble into his desert killing fields.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri May 20, 11:59 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 9 pm

★ CEVICHE'S DNA ★

DOC Canada, 2015, 85 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Orlando Arriagada

Stranger Says: “I’m convinced that the word ‘gastronomy’ will bring to mind fine French cuisine,” director Orlando Arriagada says in the film’s opening moments. “It’s unlikely that you’ll think of Peru.” Using ceviche, Peru’s most famous dish, as a starting point, Arriagada interviews cooks, archaeologists, and fishermen (who still fish in the exact same reed boats their ancestors did thousands of years ago) to explore the country’s ancient and underappreciated culinary traditions. Along with being a loving portrayal of Peruvian foods, the film exposes how our most commonly used term for the Americas—the “New World”—is actually a flaming pile of Colonialist bullshit. (ANGELA GARBES)

SIFF Says: Prepare for a delectable gastronomical journey through the history of Peru’s most famous dish, ceviche: a simple preparation of fresh fish marinated in citrus that began as pre-Columbian cuisine and continues to inspire modern gourmets.

PACIFIC PLACE Mon June 6, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Wed June 8, 4:30 pm

★ CHECKS AND BALANCES ★

DOC Algeria, 2015, 97 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Malek Bensmail

Stranger Says: The best film in the festival’s 2014 African Pictures section is certainly Merzak Allouache’s *The Rooftops*. This year, it just might be Malek Bensmail’s *Checks and Balances*. Both are set in the beautiful seaside city of Algiers, Algeria’s capital. *The Rooftops*, however, is a feature film, and *Checks and Balances* is not. It is instead an impressively crafted documentary about *El Watan*, a French-speaking pro-democracy newspaper. We get to see the reporters argue about their beliefs, editors plan for issues, and editorial meetings where the day’s events are analyzed and opinions exchanged. Everyone who works for a newspaper in Seattle should see this documentary. It will give us all some much-needed perspective. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Experience firsthand the struggles and triumphs of fiercely independent Algerian newspaper *El Watan*, whose staff have been targets of attacks from both the government and Islamist insurgents, but who continue to fight for freedom of the press.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 4 pm



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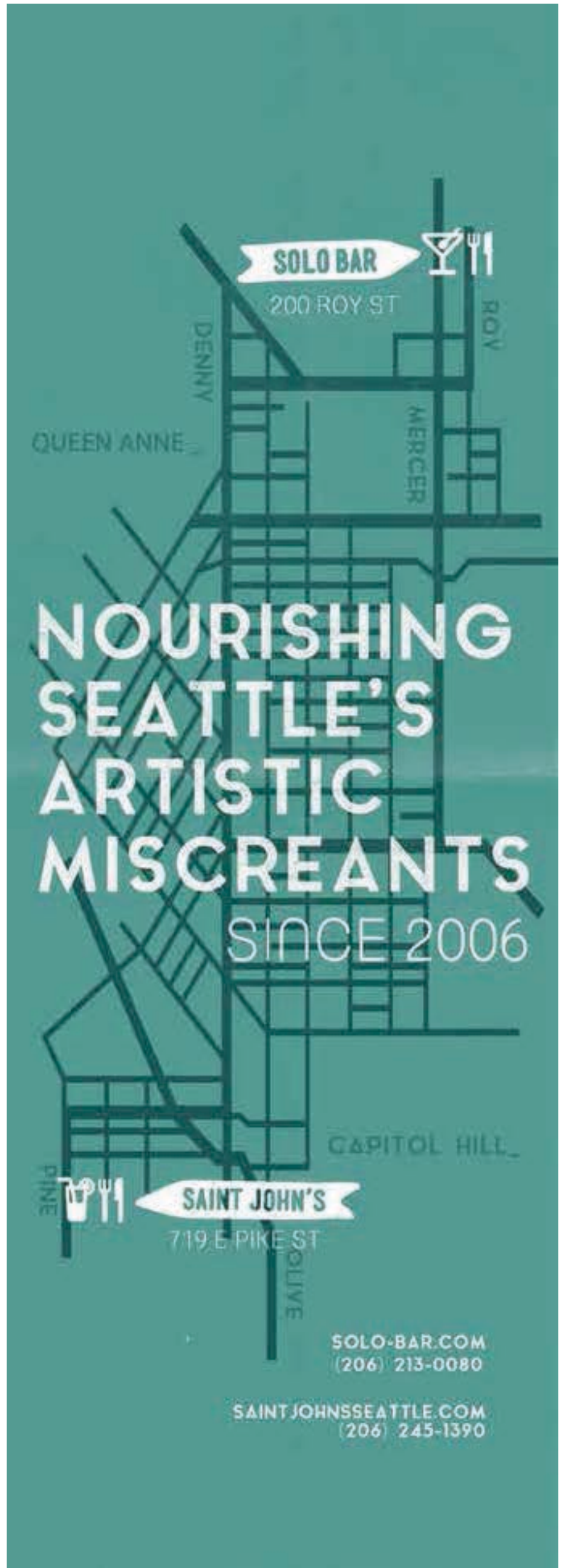
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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



CHECKS AND BALANCES

CHEVALIER

Greece, 2015, 99 min

Dir. Athina Rachel Tsangari

SIFF Says: While sailing together in the middle of the Aegean Sea, six male friends engage in a series of escalating contests of manhood—from assembling IKEA furniture to comparing erections—in an absurdist farce of male ego from the director of *Attenberg*.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sun May 22, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 9 pm

★ CHICKEN PEOPLE ★

USA, 2016, 83 min

Dir. Nicole Lucas Haimes

Stranger Says: This is one of those documentaries that open a window into a whole other way of life: in this case, competitive chicken breeders. These single-minded people are striving to create the ideal bird that will win grand champion at the big chicken show. Who knew there were so many ways to groom a chicken? Baths, beauty products on the feathers, comb enhancers, blow-drying. These folks lay it out there with their personal problems: alcoholism, low self-esteem, relationship issues, bullying, panic attacks—and how raising chickens has helped their lives get better. As one person says: “Poultry is a bit of an oasis for me. Chickens don’t judge you.” *Chicken People* is very entertaining, and I’m sure all the chicken fans around here will love it. (GILLIAN ANDERSON)

SIFF Says: Meet the colorful breeders, and even more colorful chickens, who dedicate their lives to preening, pecking, and prepping in hopes of winning Best in Show in the quirky, exotic, and unpredictably entertaining world of competitive poultry breeding.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 10, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 3:30 pm

★ CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT ★

Spain, 1966, 116 min

Dir. Orson Welles

Stranger Says: Deep Orson Welles nerds like to say this was his greatest film, *Citizen Kane* be damned. Well, I am a deep Orson Welles nerd, senator, and though it might contain his best performance, it’s impossible to say definitively because *Chimes* suffers from the same scrappy technical issues that mar all his independent work. Nevertheless, this innovative interpolation of Shakespeare is packed with startling images and heart-rending components. It’s obviously required viewing, especially with the benefit of a top-notch theatrical sound system to aid the grotty sound issues that have plagued every print I’ve ever seen of it. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Unavailable for years

and now back in a brilliant restoration, Orson Welles’ groundbreaking adaptation blends five Shakespeare plays into a single gritty tale focusing on the character who was his lifelong obsession, the drunken rascal Falstaff.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Tue May 24, 7 pm

CHUCKS

Austria, 2015, 93 min

Dir. Sabine Hiebler, Gerhard Ertl

SIFF Says: Live. Love. Dance. Now! A youthful romance, filled with humor, rebellion, and a killer electro-pop soundtrack, about a punky Vienna street artist who begins working at an AIDS center where she forms an unexpected bond with a patient.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Tue May 24, 8:45 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 9:30 pm

CLAIRE IN MOTION

USA, 2016, 80 min

Dir. Lisa Robinson, Annie J. Howell

SIFF Says: An intimate thriller showcasing a powerful emotional performance from Betsy Brandt (*Breaking Bad*) as Claire, a woman whose husband goes missing on a camping trip, leading to a search which forces her to question their life together.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 1:30 pm

CLOSET MONSTER

Canada, 2015, 90 min

Dir. Stephen Dunn

SIFF Says: In this imaginative, sometimes shocking, and unexpectedly funny coming-of-age story, an aspiring special-effects makeup artist struggling with his sexuality and his fear of his macho father turns for advice to his pet hamster Buffy (named for a certain Vampire Slayer), who hilariously speaks to him in the voice of Isabella Rossellini.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri May 20, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 23, 8:30 pm

COCONUT HERO

Germany, 2015, 101 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Florian Cossen

Stranger Says: Movies like this feel at home in festival circuits. *Coconut Hero* has quirk, cleverness, and a sense of humor. Unfortunately, that sense of humor loses its value when stretched over a melodramatic plot that lacks the engine necessary to keep the story moving forward. This is *Little Miss Sunshine* without the beauty pageant; sad, sorry people who can’t stand each other or themselves, who stumble from one scene to the next looking for... something. An answer? A companion? Worth? Recom-

mended for fans of teen-angst dramedies who just don’t need, you know, plot. (JACOB LICHTY)

SIFF Says: A sweetly deadpan romance about a clever but depressed 16-year-old outcast who carefully plans a series of suicide attempts, yet somehow botches every one, until he slowly begins to appreciate the joys of life before it is too late.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 2:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 4:30 pm

COME WHAT MAY

France, 2015, 115 min

Dir. Christian Carion

SIFF Says: In May 1940, the residents of a small French village—including a schoolteacher, the mayor, a 10-year-old boy, and a musician—begin an intensely emotional journey when they flee the approaching Nazi forces, heading toward the coast by foot and carriage.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 5 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Mon May 30, 12:30 pm

COMPLETE UNKNOWN

USA, 2016, 90 min

Dir. Joshua Marston

SIFF Says: From the director of *Maria Full of Grace*, this intelligent and romantic exploration of identity follows a married man (Michael Shannon) as he reconnects with an old flame (Rachel Weisz) who has repeatedly invented new personas for herself over the years.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu June 2, 7 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Fri June 3, 6:30 pm

THE COMPLEXITY OF HAPPINESS

Italy, 2015, 117 min

Dir. Gianni Zanasi

SIFF Says: Enrico is a persuasive “fixer” who’ll do whatever it takes to convince incompetent executives to quit their jobs before they sink their own companies, until he meets a pair of teenage orphans who make him question his choices.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Wed May 25, 8:30 pm

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sat June 4, 5:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Tue June 7, 9 pm

★ CONCERTO - A BEETHOVEN JOURNEY ★

United Kingdom, 2015, 92 min

Dir. Phil Grabsky

Stranger Says: There is a moment in this instructive documentary that struck me forcefully. It happens when the film’s subject, Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, is sitting at a table and signing autographs on his new CD after a performance at the Walt

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Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. He then explains that he has to do this because CDs don't sell so well any more. Now, this is not the kind of thing you expect to hear from one of the top classical pianists of our age. It's just not right for a man who has spent something like four years dedicated just to Beethoven's piano concertos (the documentary's principal concern) to mention that he not only has CDs but also CDs he wants to sell. That ain't right. That ain't right. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Shedding new light on a classic composer and his relationship to modern orchestras, pianist Leif Ove Andsnes spends four years attempting to understand and interpret one of the greatest sets of works for piano ever written: Beethoven's five piano concertos.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 23, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 4 pm

CONTEMPORARY COLOR

DOC USA, 2016, 96 min
Dir. Bill Ross IV, Turner Ross

Stranger Says: Produced by David Byrne, *Contemporary Color* came into being after a team asked him for permission to use one of his songs for a routine in 2008, and the subculture fascinated him. The film features 10 composers—including Byrne, tUnE-yArDs, St. Vincent, Ad Rock, and Money Mark—writing original music for 10 color guards. The routines require phenomenal concentration and coordination. The goal? Create the biggest spectacle possible. Despite the remarkable skills on display, you become numb to the countless flag tosses and fake-rifle twirls by these graceful marchers through sheer repetition. Behind-the-scenes peeks into their preparations and interviews with the performers produce platitudes like, "We'll always have this moment that we'll share together." It's an upbeat cinematic experience that will leave you either exhilarated or exhausted. (DAVE SEGAL)

SIFF Says: Ten of the country's elite color guard teams—the flag-flipping, sequin-studded crème de la crème of the "sport of the arts"—sync steps with musical luminaries from David Byrne to tUnE-yArDs for a bacchanalia of beats, sabre-spinning, and glitter cannons.

MAJESTIC BAY Thu May 26, 9 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 30, 1:30 pm

THE COOP

Turkey, 2016, 86 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Ufuk Bayraktar

Stranger Says: In the 1950s, a wife and mother of three realizes she is dying, and in a moment of desperation for her family, asks her husband to take another (barren) wife to serve as caretaker. Then she recovers and Suleyman, a traditional Turkish farmer, ends up with two wives. Set in a tiny village of stone dwellings on an arid plain, this historic fable offers quiet shots that glow with intensity, and the plot manages to thicken and twist substantially from its already dramatic starting point. (JULIA RABAN)

SIFF Says: In a Turkish mountain village in the 1950s, Saniye develops fatal tuberculosis and suggests her husband take another wife for

the good of the family. Six months later she is mysteriously cured and returns to her family's home—and her husband's new wife.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 8 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sun June 12, 11 am

★ **A COPY OF MY MIND** ★
Indonesia, 2015, 116 min
Dir. Joko Anwar

Stranger Says: A movie-crazy Jakartan salon worker strikes up a romance with a handsome subtitled of cruddy bootleg DVDs. Things take a grim turn, however, when they accidentally watch the wrong clip. The plot proper may take way too long (over an hour!) to get started, but the two leads are pretty terrific throughout, particularly Tara Basro, as a woman who refuses to take even the smallest iota of shit. She makes the final minutes both linger and sting. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: A bold hybrid of romance and political thriller unfolds in modern-day Jakarta after two lovers, a beauty-salon worker and a DVD pirate, find themselves on the run after uncovering evidence of high-level corruption.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 6:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 4, 4 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sun June 5, 3 pm

CREEPY

Japan, 2016, 130 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Kiyoshi Kurosawa

SIFF Says: Kiyoshi Kurosawa (*Cure*, *Pulse*) returns with a spine tingling suspense thriller about a retired detective who begins investigating his new suburban neighbors after their daughter confesses to him that the man in their house is not really their father.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 3, 3:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Tue June 7, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 11, 8:45 pm

THE CURVE

Jordan, 2015, 81 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Rifqi Assaf

Stranger Says: PTSD-addled Radi lives in his awesome vintage cobalt-blue Volkswagen bus. He unexpectedly gets hooked up with strangers Laila and Sami for a road trip across Jordan—a van full of mismatched personalities. The pace of the film is slow, and the geographical/ethnicity information is often confusing—who is from where and what does this and that practice mean exactly in this and that part of the world. While the film doesn't completely engage, the story has some unexpected moments and it is interesting to pass through the wonderful Jordanian scenery. (GILLIAN ANDERSON)

SIFF Says: Three displaced souls—a reticent Palestinian, a talkative divorcee heading to Syria, and a Lebanese TV director—embark on a journey across Jordan in a VW minivan while discussing their troubled pasts, fears, and hopes for the future.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 3:30 pm

★ DAWN ★

Latvia, 2015, 96 min

U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Laila Pakalnina

Stranger Says: Life on a Latvian

commune undergoes a major upheaval after a young boy questions his father's dedication to Soviet ideals. Inspired by an unfinished work of Sergei Eisenstein, this wicked allegory features stunning B&W photography and an amazing lineup of characters, many of whom appear to have lurched directly out of the nearest Dick Tracy comic strip. (Seriously, this thing is a phrenologist's dream.) Extremely odd, and very good. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: This visually ravishing farcical homage to classic Soviet cinema, inspired by an unfinished project by Sergei Eisenstein, updates a mythic propaganda story about a young boy who betrays his father as an anti-Soviet, leading to a series of tragic repercussions.

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sun June 5, 8:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 10, 11 am

★ DEAD SLOW AHEAD ★

DOC Spain, 2015, 76 min
Dir. Mauro Herce

Stranger Says: I'm still trying to figure out if this is the greatest film I have seen since Carlos Reygadas's *Silent Light* (2009). It just might be. I will know for sure in two weeks. At that time, I will look back into my mind and recall all of those stunning images: the slowly swaying ship, the continents of clouds, the unearthly endlessness of the sea. These images were shot and composed by the film's director, Mauro Herce, who is also a cinematographer. *Dead Slow Ahead* aestheticizes and even the dehumanizes the mega-machine. Humans made these massive objects. They dwarf us and have a godlike presence. We worship and love our mega-machines. They might save us one day. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Climb aboard the freighter ship *Fair Lady* on its two-month trip across the Atlantic, captured in a style that blurs the lines between cinéma vérité and dystopian science fiction for a meditative, fascinating, and lusciously cinematic voyage.

SIFF FILM CENTER Fri May 20, 7 pm

SIFF FILM CENTER Sat May 21, 9 pm

SIFF FILM CENTER Sat May 28, 9 pm

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

DOC Dominican Republic, 2016, 73 min

U.S. PREMIERE

Dir. Juan Mejia Botero, Jake Kheel

SIFF Says: The violently charged relationship between the Dominican Republic and Haiti when it comes to natural resources is analyzed through the murder investigation of a Dominican park ranger by a Haitian charcoal producer.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 3:30 pm

★ DEATH BY DESIGN ★

DOC China, 2016, 73 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Sue Williams

Stranger Says: At the outset of the film, director Sue Williams takes viewers to a milk-colored Yangtze River, where metallic muck sticks to oars and old women beg for clean drinking water. This is very much our doing. There's probably a small voice in every person's head reminding us that the devices we chuck out every couple of years must have sordid production practices on the other

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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

D-E



DEATH BY DESIGN

side of an ocean, but that voice gets drowned out by a culture constantly hawking the new iPhone 6. Not here. *Death by Design* takes viewers from the Yangtze to Silicon Valley, where electronics production once poisoned factory workers, and back to China, where all that work—and all the waste—has been outsourced by major US companies looking to cut corners on labor and environmental practices. Everyone should see this film and learn what a “corporate mortality file” is. (SYDNEY BROWNSTONE)

SIFF Says: With the world addicted to constantly shrinking electronic devices, unintended consequences have come to the fore, including deadly environmental and health issues that are approaching the tipping point between consumerism and sustainability.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 12:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sun May 22, 6 pm

DECONSTRUCTING DANI GARCÍA

DOC Spain, 2015, 72 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Iñigo Ruiz,
Alfonso Cortés-Cavanillas

Stranger Says: What is it with the Spanish and their fascination with their modernist, Michelin-starred chefs? Last year for SIFF, I was watching some fancy chefs traipse around former Spanish colonies in South America looking for inspiration, this year I'm following a year in the life of chef Dani García, as he moves through the trauma of closing a restaurant (“Haute cuisine is not profitable because it uses very expensive facilities”) and creating a new, more accessible one. I want to like García's vision for “the democratization of haute cuisine,” but turns out it's hard to care. (ANGELA GARBES)
SIFF Says: A Spanish haute cuisine chef whose two-Michelin-star restaurant closes must reinvent himself through a creative journey that includes finding a new location, discovering talented chefs, and developing a delectable menu.

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Tue June 7, 6 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Wed June 8, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 10, 1:30 pm

DEMON

Poland, 2015, 94 min
Dir. Marcin Wrona

SIFF Says: Weddings can be nightmarish enough without a ghost crashing the party and possessing the groom, which is exactly what happens in this darkly humorous and genuinely creepy Polish horror tale based in part on the Jewish legend of the dybbuk.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 20, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 9:30 pm

DISORDER

France, 2015, 101 min
Dir. Alice Winocour

SIFF Says: Matthias Schoenaerts (*Rust and Bone*) gives a tightly wound performance as a veteran with PTSD hired as a bodyguard for a wealthy man's wife (Diane Kruger) in a sleek and tense thriller from Alice Winocour, writer of 2015 Oscar®-nominee *Mustang*.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu May 26, 9:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Fri May 27, 4 pm

DON'T THINK TWICE

USA, 2016, 92 min
Dir. Mike Birbiglia

SIFF Says: From the riotous mind of Mike Birbiglia (*Sleepwalk With Me*) comes a hilarious and heartfelt exploration of the bitterness, backstabbing, and lifelong friendships that occur behind the scenes with a struggling New York improv troupe.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 11, 11 am

DRAGON INN

Taiwan, 1967, 111 min
Dir. King Hu

SIFF Says: One of the most influential and magnificent Chinese wuxia films of all time, director King Hu's 1967 classic returns in a dazzling 4K widescreen restoration exploding with stylized swordplay, kung fu action, and suspenseful intrigue.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Wed June 8, 7 pm

THE DRESSMAKER

Australia, 2015, 118 min
Dir. Jocelyn Moorhouse

SIFF Says: Kate Winslet, Liam Hemsworth, and Judy Davis star in this hysterically madcap adaptation of the beloved novel about a chic 1950s dressmaker who returns from Paris to her small Australian town to right the wrongs of the past and revolutionize the local couture.

CINERAMA Sun June 12, 6 pm

EASTERN PROMISES

Canada, 2007, 101 min
Dir. David Cronenberg

Stranger Says: It cannot be controversial to say that David Cronenberg's last great film is *Eastern Promises*, which was completed in 2007 and, as his penultimate great film, *A History of Violence*, starring Viggo Mortensen, the subject of a tribute at this year's festival. Mortensen, a Danish-American, justly received an Oscar nomination for the smooth, cold, and complicated way

he channeled and captured the Russian gangster in *Eastern Promises*. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Viggo Mortensen re-teamed with director David Cronenberg (*A History of Violence*) to give a daringly violent, emotionally nuanced, and critically praised performance as a bodyguard for a Russian crime family.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 9:30 pm

EQUALS

USA, 2015, 101 min
Dir. Drake Doremus

SIFF Says: In a future utopian society where crime has been eradicated through human genetic manipulation, two young worker drones (Kristen Stewart and Nicholas Hoult) find themselves afflicted with the “disease” of emotion and are forced to go on the run.

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 28, 9 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Thu June 2, 9:20 pm

ETERNAL SUMMER

Sweden, 2015, 107 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Andreas Öhman

Stranger Says: A bored Stockholm carnival worker impulsively accepts a troubled free spirit's offer of a road trip through the idyllic Swedish countryside. Their adventure soon finds them on the lam for murder, as these things often do. Not terribly compelling, unfortunately, especially when the thin plot gets increasingly clunked up by an overly busy flashback structure. The realistically wobbly byplay between the two leads is nice, however. (ANDREW WRIGHT)
SIFF Says: Two young lovers meet in Stockholm and begin a whirlwind romance that sends them on an impromptu road trip through northern Sweden, where their summer adventure turns criminal in this Swedish mix of *Bonnie & Clyde* with a soft touch of *Natural Born Killers*.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Fri May 27, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 28, 1:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 29, 6:30 pm

EVOLUTION

France, 2015, 81 min
Dir. Lucile Hadžihalilovic

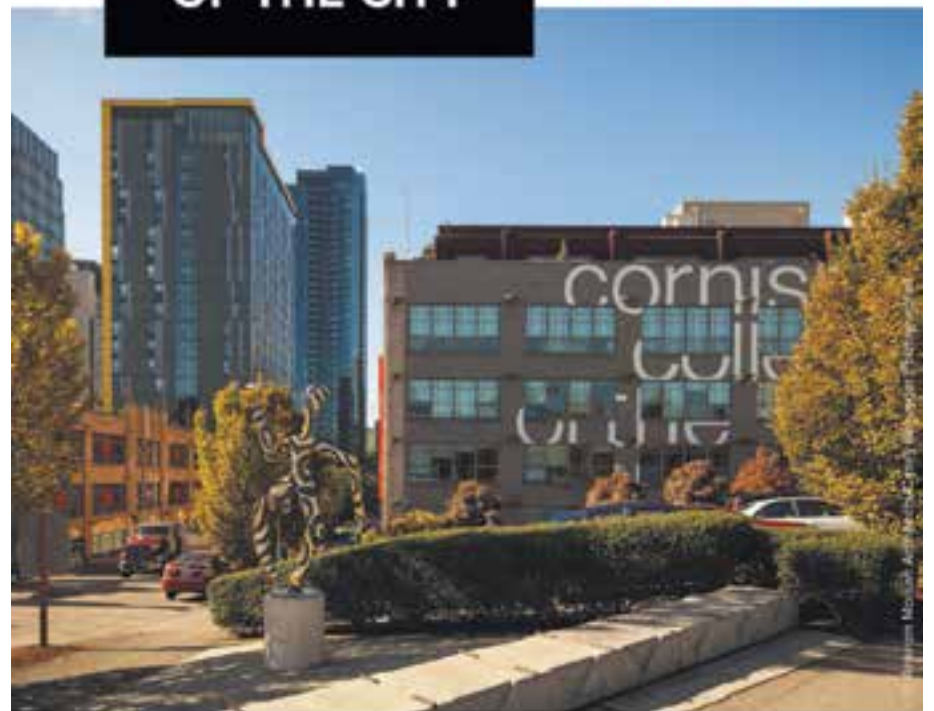
SIFF Says: Surreal and chilling, the latest from Lucile Hadžihalilovic (*Innocence*) unfolds on a remote island where the children are subjected to strange medical tests, while each night their guardian “mothers” congregate on the beach for a strange ritual.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 9:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 30, 1:30 pm

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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

mysterious outbreaks of fainting and swooning spells, that make Toni question how far she will go to fit in.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Wed June 8, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 4:30 pm

FOLK HERO & FUNNY GUY

USA, 2016, 90 min
Dir. Jeff Grace

Stranger Says: The editing in this film is terrible. It's also a road movie (a genre that needs to die today—we need walking movies or light-rail rom-coms or lots of bicycle chases). That said, *Folk Hero & Funny Guy* has a few good jokes and really remarkable performance by Wyatt Russell (the very handsome son of Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell). Russell's character easily, if not automatically, brings to mind the lead singer of Fleet Foxes, Robin "And The River Got Frozen" Pecknold. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: A struggling stand-up (Alex Karpovsky) becomes the opening act on tour with his rising-star musician friend (Wyatt Russell) in this refreshing indie road-trip buddy comedy filled with sparkling dialogue and original music.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Sat May 28, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 12:30 pm

FRANK & LOLA

USA, 2016, 88 min
Dir. Matthew Ross

SIFF Says: Michael Shannon (*Midnight Special*) and Imogen Poots (*Green Room*) share a sizzling chemistry in this romantic noir thriller about a Las Vegas chef whose increasing possessiveness sends him on an irrational quest for revenge, uncovering surprising details about his lover's past.

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 11, 7 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sun June 12, 6 pm

FREE IN DEED

USA, 2015, 98 min
Dir. Jake Mahaffy

SIFF Says: This provocative drama, Winner of Best Film in the Horizons competition at the Venice Film Festival, takes place in the rarely seen world of Memphis' storefront churches, where a single mother and a faith healer struggle to cure her autistic son.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Tue June 7, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 9 pm

THE FREE WORLD

USA, 2016, 100 min
Dir. Jason Lew

Stranger Says: Before watching this movie, I recommend buying the recently published *Black Box: A Record of the Catastrophe* and reading "What Is a Life in Angola Prison" by Tanya Erzen. This essay will provide an excellent background for the main character, Mo Lundy, of this Southern Gothic noir. Mo is white, an ex-convict who spent much of his youth in Angola (a notorious maximum security prison in Louisiana), and a Muslim (converted to the religion while doing time). After winning his freedom, he lands a job at a dog rescue operation. One day, a crying woman, her husband (a sadistic cop), and their dying dog appear at the rescue. The bad visit sets into motion a plot that is very strong until its third act.

The problem? Not in the acting or in the direction but in the writing. The third act needed to be rewritten. A few important changes here and there, and this would have been a noir masterpiece. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Recently released after being falsely imprisoned, an ex-con (Boyd Holbrook) meets the troubled wife of a particularly nasty cop (Elisabeth Moss) and begins a sultry romance that sends his fresh start down a dark and dangerous path.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 9:30 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Mon May 30, 8:30 pm

FROM AFAR

Venezuela, 2015, 93 min
Dir. Lorenzo Vigas

SIFF Says: A wealthy man seeks young men and pays them just for their company until he meets a teenage street thug, beginning a complex and riveting relationship based on constantly fluctuating power, obsession, and sexual desire. Winner of the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 9:45 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 29, 1:30 pm

FULL COURT: THE SPENCER HAYWOOD STORY

USA, 2016, 90 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Martin Spirit

Stranger Says: Haywood, a former ABA and NBA master (and Iman's first husband), deserves to be remembered, despite having played just before the age of the basketball superstar and despite having been felled by drug problems. He also deserves a better doc than this one, which is notable mostly for the still photos of old Seattle from Haywood's years as a '70s SuperSonic, and for the inspiration of hiring Chuck D to do the voice over. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Recently inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame, Seattle SuperSonics legend Spencer Haywood overcame extreme poverty and racism to rise from picking cotton as a child in Silver City, Mississippi to changing the face of professional basketball.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 2 pm

★ THE GENERAL ★

USA, 1926, 76 min

Dir. Buster Keaton, Clyde Bruckman



Stranger Says: Every so often I'm reminded that there are lots of people who haven't seen any Buster Keaton films. The miracle of Keaton's physical and cinematic gift is a mandatory addition to any cultural education worth a damn, but more importantly: You won't see a funnier movie in this festival. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Buster Keaton's iconic slapstick comedy of an engineer who must pursue his beloved locomotive straight through enemy lines during the Civil War is presented in a new 4K restoration with an original symphonic score from Studio Ghibli composer Joe Hisaishi.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 11, 11 am

GIRL ASLEEP

Australia, 2016, 77 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Rosemary Myers

SIFF Says: Journey into the ab-

surd, scary, and beautiful heart of a teenage girl's mind after a disastrous 15th-birthday party sends Greta Driscoll into an imaginative dreamworld that is weirdly erotic, a little bit violent, and thoroughly ludicrous.

PACIFIC PLACE Wed May 25, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 12 pm

★ THE GIRL WHO SAVED MY LIFE ★

DOC Sweden, 2016, 79 min

Dir. Hogir Hirori



Stranger Says: The thirty-something director, Hogir Hirori, leaves peaceful Sweden and his pregnant wife and returns to his homeland, Kurdistan, to make a documentary about the refugee catastrophe caused by the gang called ISIS. At the beginning of the doc, Hirori interviews both refugees, who are Yazidis (non-Muslims), and ISIS criminals, who are killing Yazidi men who do not convert to Islam. In one scene, a Yazidi young man is killed by an ISIS criminal and his money and Samsung smartphone are taken from his body. The smartphone rings. The ISIS criminal answers the call. It is the mother of the man he has just killed... Though the documentary is not easy to watch, you have to do so. You need to see this chaos and misery that is very much a part of the world you live in. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: When a documentary filmmaker returns to his native Kurdistan to document the refugees fleeing ISIS, he happens upon an abandoned 11-year-old girl lying in pain in the scorching heat and makes a fateful decision, which ends up shaping both their lives.

SIFF FILM CENTER Sun May 29, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 7:30 pm

GLEASON

DOC USA, 2016, 110 min

Dir. Clay Tweel

SIFF Says: Director Clay Tweel delivers a bold and moving portrait of beloved New Orleans Saints player Steve Gleason, who at age 34 was diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease and courageously filmed his journey for the public eye.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 4, 5 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun June 5, 1:30 pm

GOAT

USA, 2016, 96 min

Dir. Andrew Neel

SIFF Says: This realistic psychological drama is a brutal portrait of college masculinity that follows a 19-year-old boy as he pledges a fraternity and is swept up in a series of grotesque rituals that become more and more insidious. Co-starring James Franco and Nick Jonas.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 27, 9:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat May 28, 9 pm

GOLD BALLS

DOC USA, 2016, 85 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Kate Dandel

SIFF Says: A growing group of active seniors are taking the sport of tennis to the next level with Ultra Senior tennis, where octogenarians train like young pros, travel like itinerant rock bands, and vie for the prize of the "Gold Ball" trophy, illustrating the agelessness of the human spirit.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 4:30 pm

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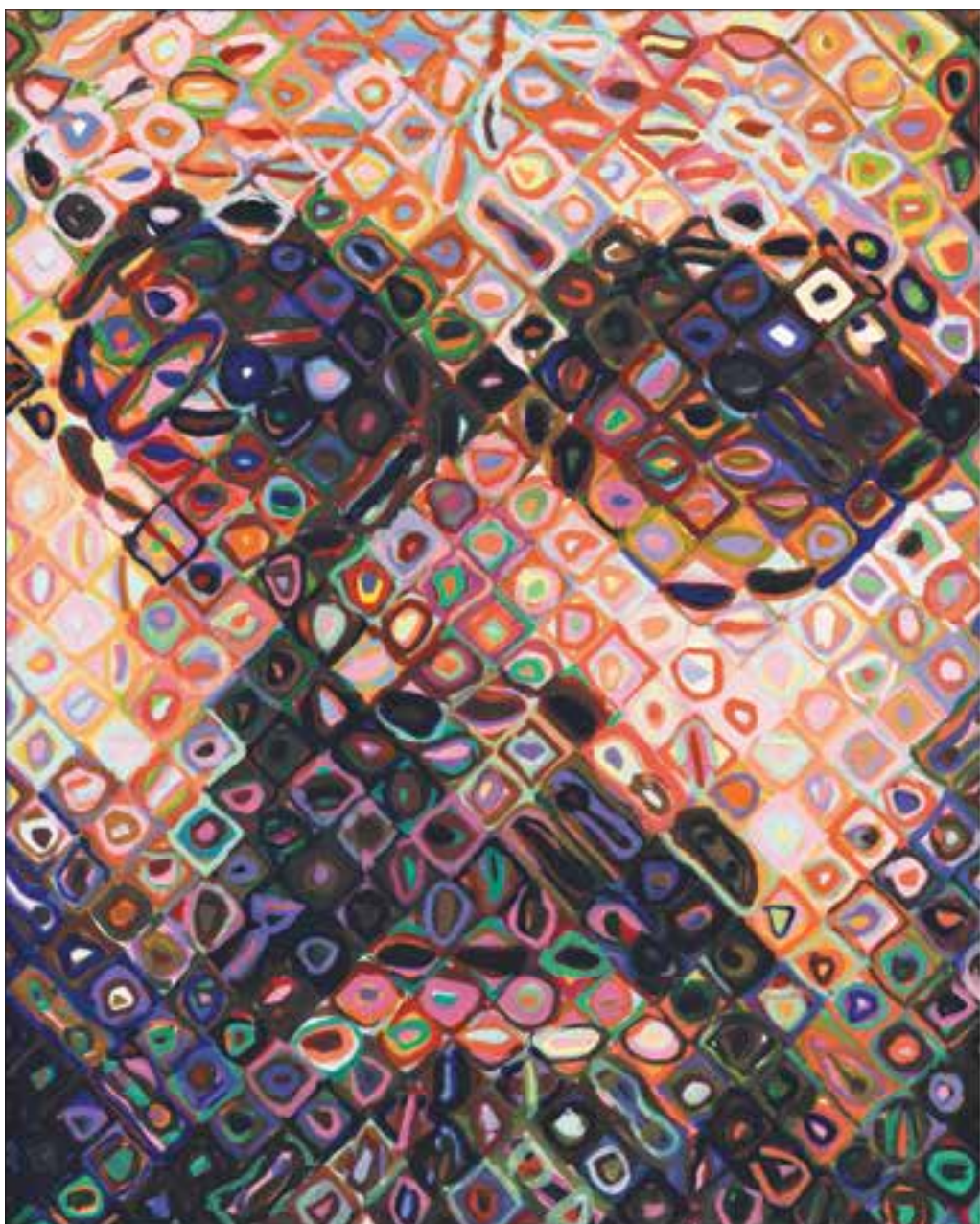
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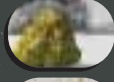
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THE STRANGER'S GUIDE TO

SIFF 2016

OPENING NIGHT GALA

★ CAFÉ SOCIETY ★

Thursday, May 19, 7:00 pm, McCaw Hall

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$50 (SIFF members: \$45), includes admission to the film and after-party. PREMIUM ADMISSION: \$100 (SIFF members: \$90), includes preferred entry to the film and open bar at the after-party.

CENTERPIECE GALA

★ GLEASON ★

Saturday, June 4, 5:00 pm, Egyptian

FILM AND PARTY: \$30 (SIFF members: \$25), includes admission to the party at DAR Rainier Chapter House following the screening. FILM ONLY: \$15 (SIFF members: \$13).

GAY-LA

★ BEING 17 ★

Thursday, June 9, 7:00 pm, Egyptian

FILM AND PARTY: \$25 (SIFF members: \$23), includes admission to the party at the Baltic Room following the screening. FILM ONLY: \$13 (SIFF members: \$11).

	SIFF Cinema Uptown			Egyptian	Pacific Place	Majestic Bay	Lincoln Square	SIFF Film Center
FRI MAY 20	4:30 pm Weiner 7:00 pm The Patriarch 9:30 pm The Free World	3:30 pm Horizons 6:00 pm Our Little Sister 9:15 pm Rainbow Time	4:00 pm Slash 6:30 pm As I Open My Eyes 9:00 pm Where Have All the Good Men Gone	4:00 pm Sunset Song 7:00 pm Presenting Princess Shaw 9:30 pm Closet Monster MIDNIGHT Carnage Park	11:00 am Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You 1:30 pm Tanna 4:30 pm Ants on a Shrimp 7:00 pm The Architect 9:30 pm Demon	4:30 pm Belle and Sebastian: The Adventure Continues 7:00 pm The Last King 9:30 pm The Violin Teacher	4:00 pm The High Sun 6:30 pm Body 8:30 pm The Blackcoat's Daughter	7:00 pm Dead Slow Ahead
								7:00 pm Motherland 9:00 pm Dead Slow Ahead
SAT MAY 21	10:00 am 3 Minute Masterpieces NOON The Violin Teacher 2:30 pm Rainbow Time 5:00 pm Love & Friendship 8:00 pm Full Court: The Spencer Haywood Story	11:30 am Ice and the Sky 1:30 pm As I Open My Eyes 4:30 pm Gold Balls 7:30 pm 13 Minutes	12:30 pm Death by Design 3:00 pm Resilience 5:30 pm How Most Things Work 8:30 pm Slash	11:00 am Kedi 1:30 pm The Patriarch 4:00 pm Tickled 7:00 pm Miles 9:30 pm The Blackcoat's Daughter MIDNIGHT The Mads are Back: Glen or Glenda	11:00 am Long Way North 1:00 pm Presenting Princess Shaw 3:30 pm The If Project 6:30 pm Indignation* 9:30 pm The Architect	1:00 pm Microbe and Gasoline 3:30 pm Midsummer in Newtown 6:30 pm Sunset Song 9:30 pm Rosita	1:00 pm The Lovers and the Despot 3:15 pm SEED: The Untold Story 6:00 pm Radio Dreams 8:30 pm Our Little Sister	7:00 pm The Seasons in Quincy: Four Portraits of John Berger 9:00 pm The Island Funeral
								7:00 pm The Seasons in Quincy: Four Portraits of John Berger 9:00 pm Dead Slow Ahead
SUN MAY 22	11:00 am Belle and Sebastian: The Adventure Continues 1:30 pm Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You 5:00 pm Come What May 8:00 pm The Violators	11:30 am Where Have All The Good Men Gone 2:00 pm Full Court: The Spencer Haywood Story 6:00 pm Weiner 9:00 pm Carnage Park	NOON Gold Balls 2:30 pm SEED: The Untold Story 5:30 pm Midsummer in Newtown 8:30 pm The Island Funeral	11:00 am Secret 1* 1:30 pm Miles 4:30 pm An Afternoon with Molly Shannon* 9:00 pm Lily Lane	11:00 am The If Project 1:30 pm A Scandal in Paris 4:00 pm Love & Friendship 6:30 pm Sustainable 9:00 pm Warehoused	1:00 pm Resilience 3:30 pm How Most Things Work 6:00 pm Radio Dreams 8:30 pm The Olive Tree	1:00 pm Long Way North 3:00 pm Indignation 6:00 pm Death by Design 8:00 pm Chevalier	7:00 pm The Girl Who Saved My Life
								6:30 pm Beyond My Grandfather Allende 9:00 pm The 1,000 Eyes of Dr. Maddin
MON MAY 23	4:30 pm Other People 7:00 pm Angry Indian Goddesses 9:30 pm The Lovers and the Despot	3:00 pm 3000 Nights 6:00 pm Concerto A Beethoven Journey 8:30 pm Closet Monster	3:30 pm Mountain 6:30 pm Finding Kim 9:00 pm Lily Lane	7:00 pm Microbe and Gasoline 9:30 pm The Last King	4:30 pm Our Loved Ones 7:00 pm Ants on a Shrimp 9:00 pm A Monster With a Thousand Heads	4:00 pm Zud 6:30 pm The Weekend Sailor 8:30 pm Tanna	6:30 pm 13 Minutes 9:00 pm Amama: When A Tree Falls	1:00 pm Foreveryone.net 6:00 pm Beyond My Grandfather Allende 8:30 pm The 1,000 Eyes of Dr. Maddin
								7:00 pm I Am Belfast
TUE MAY 24	4:30 pm Illegitimate 7:00 pm Little Men 9:00 pm Tickled	4:00 pm Aisha 6:30 pm 3000 Nights 9:30 pm Motherland	3:30 pm Warehoused 6:00 pm Hummus 8:30 pm Home Care	7:00 pm Chimes at Midnight 9:30 pm A Bride for Rip Van Winkle	4:30 pm Lily Lane 7:00 pm Horizons 9:00 pm Body	4:30 pm Other Girls 6:30 pm Welcome to Norway! 8:30 pm Our Loved Ones	6:30 pm Rosita 8:45 pm Chucks	7:00 pm I Am Belfast
								7:00 pm I Am Belfast
WED MAY 25	4:00 pm Concerto A Beethoven Journey 7:00 pm Ice and the Sky 9:30 pm Honor Thy Father	4:30 pm Welcome to Norway! 6:30 pm Other Girls 8:30 pm If There's a Hell Below	3:30 pm The Weekend Sailor 6:00 pm The Violators 9:00 pm Chevalier	7:00 pm The Violin Teacher 9:30 pm Uncle Howard	4:30 pm The Wounded Angel 7:00 pm Girl Asleep 9:00 pm Alone	4:00 pm Hummus 6:30 pm Ma Ma 9:00 pm Little Men	6:30 pm Zud 8:30 pm The Complexity of Happiness	
THU MAY 26	4:30 pm Vanity 7:00 pm ShortsFest Opening Night 9:30 pm Demon	3:00 pm Uncle Howard 6:30 pm Sonita 9:00 pm As You Are	3:30 pm Peace in the Middle East 6:00 pm The Revolution Won't Be Televised 9:15 pm ALT Shorts	3:00 pm A Bride for Rip Van Winkle 7:00 pm The People vs. Fritz Bauer 9:30 pm Disorder	4:30 pm If There's A Hell Below 7:00 pm First Girl I Loved 9:30 pm The Eyes of My Mother	4:15 pm Home Care 6:30 pm Spy Time 9:00 pm Contemporary Color	6:30 pm Paths of the Soul 9:00 pm Welcome to Norway!	7:00 pm My Blind Brother
						Shoreline CC		
FRI MAY 27	4:00 pm Paths of the Soul 7:00 pm Extremely Awkward and Incredibly Funny 9:30 pm The Devil's Brood	4:30 pm Coming of Age 7:30 pm Action Comandante 9:45 pm From Afar	3:30 pm The Revolution Won't Be Televised 6:30 pm Moon in the 12th House 9:00 pm Zud	4:00 pm Ma Ma 7:00 pm Therapy for a Vampire 9:30 pm The Lure MIDNIGHT Tag	11:00 am While the Women Are Sleeping 1:30 pm Women He's Undressed 4:00 pm As You Are 7:00 pm My Blind Brother 9:30 pm Goat	7:00 pm The Tenth Man	4:00 pm Disorder 7:00 pm Eternal Summer 9:45 pm They Call Me Jeeg Robot	6:00 pm Angry Indian Goddesses 8:30 pm The Bodyguard
SAT MAY 28	11:30 am The Family Picture Show 3:00 pm Kedi 6:00 pm The Final Master 9:30 pm WTF?!	NOON Girl Asleep 2:30 pm The Tenth Man 5:30 pm Corto y Maravilloso 8:30 pm Contemporary Color	12:30 pm Action Comandante 3:30 pm Tipping Point 6:30 pm Kingdom of Clay Subjects 9:00 pm Beware the Slenderman	11:00 am Heaven Can Wait 1:30 pm Summertime 4:00 pm The Lure 6:30 pm A Man Called Ove 9:30 pm In a Valley of Violence MIDNIGHT Another Evil	11:00 am Searchdog 1:30 pm Eternal Summer 4:15 pm First Girl I Loved 6:30 pm The Intervention* 9:00 pm Equals	1:00 pm Belle and Sebastian: The Adventure Continues 3:30 pm The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble 6:00 pm The Patriarch 8:30 pm The People vs. Fritz Bauer	1:00 pm Sonita 3:30 pm Mr. Gaga 6:30 pm Angry Indian Goddesses 9:00 pm Goat	1:00 pm Oddball 3:30 pm Warehoused 5:30 pm Honor Thy Father 8:00 pm Folk Hero & Funny Guy
SUN MAY 29	11:30 am Northern Tales 3:30 pm Les Cowboys 6:30 pm Growing Up Gay 9:00 pm Animation4Adults	12:30 pm Moon in the 12th House 4:00 pm The Memory of Fish 7:00 pm The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble 9:30 pm Evolution	NOON Kingdom of Clay Subjects 3:00 pm Things We Do For Love 6:00 pm Searchdog 8:30 pm Eye of the Storm	11:00 am Secret 2* 1:30 pm A Man Called Ove 4:30 pm Truman 7:15 pm Our Kind of Traitor 9:45 pm Wiener-Dog MIDNIGHT Prince Sing-Along	11:00 am Seasons 1:30 pm From Afar 4:00 pm Tiny: The Life of Erin Blackwell 6:30 pm Eternal Summer 9:15 pm Sparrows	12:30 pm Beware the Slenderman 3:30 pm The Intervention 6:30 pm The Final Master 9:15 pm The Lure	1:00 pm Lo and Behold: Reveries of the Connected World 3:30 pm In a Valley of Violence 6:00 pm Illegitimate 8:00 pm Our Loved Ones	1:00 pm Long Way North 3:00 pm Vintage Tomorrows 5:00 pm The Olive Tree 7:30 pm Kilo Two Bravo
MON MAY 30	NOON Kedi 2:30 pm Our Kind of Traitor 6:30 pm ShortsFest Closing Night 9:00 pm Stranger	11:30 am Uncharted Territories 3:00 pm The Memory of Fish 5:30 pm Les Cowboys 8:30 pm BANG! The Bert Berns Story	12:30 pm Beware the Slenderman 3:30 pm FutureWave Shorts / Best of NFFTY 6:00 pm Checks and Balances 9:30 pm Chucks	11:00 am Phantom Boy 1:30 pm Contemporary Color 4:00 pm Wiener-Dog 6:30 pm Truman 9:15 pm Illegitimate	11:00 am Tiny: The Life of Erin Blackwell 1:30 pm Evolution 3:30 pm Summer of '92 6:00 pm Mr. Gaga 8:30 pm The Bodyguard	12:30 pm Come What May 3:00 pm Author: The JT LeRoy Story 6:00 pm Finding October 8:30 pm The Free World	1:00 pm Under the Sun 3:30 pm Sleeping Giant 6:00 pm Mountain 8:30 pm Family Film	1:00 pm Rainbow 3:15 pm Motherland 5:30 pm The Final Master 8:00 pm Other Girls

Renton

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Friday, May 27, 9:00 pm, Neptune

General Admission: \$15.00
Tickets or Platinum and Platinum Plus Passes are required for admission.

SATURDAY FILM & PARTY

★ INDIGNATION ★

Saturday, May 21, 6:30 pm,
AMC Pacific Place

FILM AND PARTY: \$25 (SIFF members: \$23), includes admission to the party at Pacific Place following the screening.
FILM ONLY: \$13 (SIFF members: \$11).

SATURDAY FILM & PARTY

★ THE INTERVENTION ★

Saturday, May 28, 6:30 pm,
AMC Pacific Place

FILM AND PARTY: \$25 (SIFF members: \$23), includes admission to the party at Seattle Art Museum following the screening.
FILM ONLY: \$13 (SIFF members: \$11).

SATURDAY FILM & PARTY

★ FRANK & LOLA ★

Saturday, June 11, 7:00 pm,
AMC Pacific Place

FILM AND PARTY: \$25 (SIFF members: \$23), includes admission to the party at Hotel Monaco following the screening.
FILM ONLY: \$13 (SIFF members: \$11).

	SIFF Cinema Uptown			Egyptian	Pacific Place	Shoreline CC	Lincoln Square	Renton
TUE MAY 31	4:00 pm Sparrows 6:30 pm Last Cab to Darwin 9:15 pm Zoom	3:30 pm Finding Kim 6:00 pm Tsukiji Wonderland 9:00 pm The Wounded Angel	3:00 pm Mekko 7:00 pm The Big Road 9:30 pm A Monster with a Thousand Heads	7:00 pm Seasons 9:30 pm Kilo Two Bravo	4:00 pm Eye of the Storm 7:00 pm Sleeping Giant 9:30 pm One Kiss	7:00 pm Therapy for a Vampire 9:00 pm Battledream Chronicle	6:30 pm Home Care 9:00 pm Where Have All the Good Men Gone	6:00 pm Aisha 8:30 pm Alone
WED JUNE 1	3:30 pm One Kiss 6:00 pm The Olive Tree 8:30 pm Murmur of the Hearts	4:00 pm Checks and Balances 6:30 pm Author: The JT LeRoy Story 9:15 pm Under the Sun	4:30 pm BANG! The Bert Berns Story 7:00 pm The Sound of Trees 9:30 pm Cameraperson	7:00 pm Morris from America 9:30 pm Zoom	4:30 pm Rosita 7:00 pm Summertime 9:30 pm The Pistol Shrimps	7:00 pm Vanity 9:00 pm The Eyes of My Mother	6:30 pm Uncle Howard 9:00 pm Honor Thy Father	6:00 pm Whistleblower 8:00 pm Transpecos
								Kirkland
THU JUNE 2	4:30 pm The Pistol Shrimps 7:00 pm The Innocents 9:30 pm The Bride	4:00 pm Cameraperson 6:30 pm Tower 9:00 pm A Song For You: The Austin City Limits Story	3:30 pm The Sound of Trees 6:00 pm Whistleblower 8:30 pm Finding October	4:30 pm Morris from America 7:00 pm Complete Unknown 9:30 pm Tag	4:30 pm Sleeping Giant 7:00 pm The Queen of Ireland 9:30 pm While the Women Are Sleeping	7:00 pm A New High 9:30 pm Spa Night	6:30 pm Tsukiji Wonderland 9:20 pm Equals	8:00 pm Paul à Québec
FRI JUNE 3	4:00 pm The Paradise Suite 7:00 pm Folk Hero & Funny Guy 9:45 pm Transpecos	3:30 pm Battle of Sevastopol 6:00 pm The Pretty Ones 8:30 pm Vintage Tomorrows	3:45 pm The High Sun 6:30 pm A Copy of my Mind 9:30 pm Paralytic	3:30 pm Creepy 6:30 pm Burn Burn Burn 9:30 pm The Brand New Testament MIDNIGHT Under the Shadow	11:00 am Sand Storm 1:30 pm The Bride 4:00 pm Tower 7:00 pm Spa Night 9:30 pm Ovarian Psychos	6:30 pm Complete Unknown 9:00 pm Truman	6:30 pm Insatiable: The Homaro Cantu Story 9:00 pm The Land	6:00 pm Hunt for the Wilderpeople 8:30 pm Thithi
SAT JUNE 4	11:30 am Oddball 2:00 pm Burn Burn Burn 5:30 pm The Night Stalker 8:00 pm Lo and Behold: Reveries of the Connected World	12:30 pm The Queen of Ireland 3:00 pm A Song For You: The Austin City Limits Story 6:30 pm Antonia 9:00 pm Mountain	NOON Mekko 2:30 pm Insatiable: The Homaro Cantu Story 6:00 pm Atlantic Heart 8:30 pm Before the Streets	11:00 am Paul à Québec 2:00 pm The Bitter Stems 5:00 pm Gleason* 8:30 pm Hunt for the Wilderpeople 11:00 pm B-Movie Bingo Presents Rambou: The Intruder	11:00 am Bugs 1:30 pm The Land 4:00 pm A Copy of My Mind 7:00 pm Finding Babel 9:30 pm Stranger	1:00 pm Summer of '92 3:30 pm Sonita 6:00 pm Big Sonia 8:30 pm Trivisa	1:00 pm Sam Choy's Poké to the Max 3:00 pm The Pretty Ones 5:30 pm The Complexity of Happiness 8:00 pm Ovarian Psychos	1:00 pm Rainbow 3:30 pm Murmur of the Hearts 6:00 pm Battle of Sevastopol 8:45 pm The Innocents
SUN JUNE 5	11:30 am Rainbow 2:00 pm The Brand New Testament 5:00 pm Paul à Québec 8:00 pm Summer of '92	12:30 pm Folk Hero & Funny Guy 3:00 pm Transpecos 6:00 pm Between Sea and Land 8:30 pm Body	NOON Before the Streets 2:30 pm Antonia 5:30 pm Sam Choy's Poké to the Max 7:30 pm The Girl Who Saved My Life	11:00 am Secret 3* 1:30 pm Gleason 4:30 pm Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale 7:00 pm Thithi 9:45 pm Trivisa	11:00 am Finding Babel 1:30 pm The Night Stalker 4:00 pm Bugs 6:30 pm Big Sonia 9:00 pm You'll Never Be Alone		1:00 pm Oddball 3:30 pm Battle of Sevastopol 6:00 pm Aisha 8:30 pm We Are X	1:00 pm Vintage Tomorrows 3:00 pm A Copy of My Mind 6:00 pm Much Loved 8:30 pm Dawn
MON JUNE 6	4:00 pm Alone 7:00 pm Murmur of the Hearts 9:30 pm The Mobfathers	3:00 pm How Most Things Work 6:30 pm Nakom 9:00 pm The Paradise Suite	3:30 pm Atlantic Heart 6:00 pm Immortal 8:30 pm The Black Hen	7:00 pm Women He's Undressed 9:30 pm Another Evil	4:30 pm You'll Never Be Alone 7:00 pm Ceviche's DNA 9:30 pm The Academy of Muses		6:30 pm Battledream Chronicle 9:00 pm The High Sun	6:00 pm Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale 8:30 pm While the Women Are Sleeping
TUE JUNE 7	4:30 pm The Mobfathers 7:00 pm Spy Time 9:30 pm Tag	4:00 pm Between Sea and Land 6:30 pm Rara 9:00 pm Paralytic	3:30 pm Nakom 6:00 pm Lamb 8:30 pm The Curve	7:00 pm A New High 9:00 pm The Complexity of Happiness	4:30 pm Immortal 7:00 pm Marzia, My Friend 9:30 pm Kilo Two Bravo		6:30 pm Free in Deed 9:00 pm The Black Hen	6:00 pm Deconstructing Dani García 8:00 pm Creepy

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	SIFF Cinema Uptown			Egyptian	Pacific Place		Ark Lodge	Kirkland
WED JUNE 8	4:30 pm The Academy of Muses 7:00 pm Life, Animated 9:30 pm Sand Storm	4:00 pm Marzia, My Friend 6:30 pm NUTS! 9:00 pm Free in Deed	3:30 pm Rara 6:00 pm Death By a Thousand Cuts 8:30 pm The Bacchus Lady	7:00 pm Dragon Inn 9:30 pm We Are X	4:30 pm Ceviche's DNA 7:00 pm Deconstructing Dani Garcia 9:30 pm Under the Shadow		6:30 pm The Fits 8:30 pm Lamb	6:00 pm Finding Babel 8:00 pm The Wounded Angel
THU JUNE 9	3:00 pm Mountains May Depart 6:30 pm Phantom Boy 9:00 pm They Call Me Jeeg Robot	4:30 pm NUTS! 7:00 pm Coconut Hero 9:30 pm Nueva Venecia	3:30 pm The Curve 6:00 pm Americana 8:30 pm Claire in Motion	4:30 pm Life, Animated 7:00 pm Being 17* 9:45 pm Battledream Chronicle	4:15 pm The Bacchus Lady 7:00 pm Red Gringo 9:30 pm Much Loved		6:30 pm Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise 9:15 pm Family Film	6:00 pm Spy Time 8:30 pm Sand Storm
FRI JUNE 10	2:00 pm Much Loved 4:30 pm The Fits 7:00 pm Don't Think Twice 9:30 pm Eastern Promises	1:00 pm Nueva Venecia 3:30 pm Death By a Thousand Cuts 6:00 pm Amama: When A Tree Falls 8:30 pm Awaiting	1:30 pm Claire in Motion 4:00 pm Americana 6:30 pm All the Birds Have Flown South 9:00 pm Middle Man	4:00 pm A New High 7:00 pm Chicken People 9:15 pm Holding the Man MIDNIGHT The Greasy Strangler	11:00 am Dawn 1:30 pm Deconstructing Dani Garcia 7:00 pm The Scent of Mandarin 9:45 pm Mountains May Depart			6:00 pm Sustainable 8:30 pm Up for Love
SAT JUNE 11	12:30 pm Sustainable 3:30 pm Chicken People 7:00 pm Southside with You	NOON Family Film 3:00 pm Amama: When A Tree Falls 6:00 pm We the People 2.0 8:30 pm Arianna	11:30 am All the Birds Have Flown South 2:30 pm Coconut Hero 5:30 pm 11:55 8:00 pm The Coop	11:00 am The General 1:30 pm A Tribute to Viggo Mortensen* 6:30 pm Up for Love 8:45 pm Creepy 11:30 pm The Return of the King	11:00 am Don't Think Twice 1:30 pm Awaiting 4:00 pm Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise 7:00 pm Frank & Lola* 9:30 pm News From Planet Mars			6:00 pm Red Gringo 8:30 pm The Scent of Mandarin
SUN JUNE 12	NOON Up for Love 2:30 pm Captain Fantastic 6:00 pm Being 17 8:30 pm The Greasy Strangler	11:00 am A Walk on the Moon 1:30 pm We the People 2.0 5:30 pm Arianna	11:30 am Middle Man 2:00 pm 11:55 4:30 pm Coconut Hero 7:30 pm Last Cab to Darwin	11:00 am Secret 4* 1:30 pm Remembering Dan 4:30 pm The Scent of Mandarin 7:00 pm Southside with You	11:00 am The Coop 1:00 pm Holding the Man 4:00 pm Stranger			6:00 pm Frank & Lola 8:30 pm News from Planet Mars

FESTIVAL VENUES

SIFF Cinema Uptown 511 Queen Anne Avenue N • SIFF Cinema Egyptian 801 E Pine Street • SIFF Film Center 305 Harrison Street • AMC Pacific Place 600 Pine Street • Majestic Bay 2044 NW Market Street • Lincoln Square Cinemas 700 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue • Shoreline Community College 16101 Greenwood Avenue N, Shoreline • Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center 400 S Second Street, Renton • Kirkland Performance Center 350 Kirkland Avenue, Kirkland • Ark Lodge Columbia City 4816 Rainier Avenue S • Cinerama 2100 Fourth Avenue • McCaw Hall 321 Mercer Street • Neptune Theatre 1303 NE 45th Street • Pacific Science Center 200 Second Avenue N

★ SECRET FESTIVAL ★

Sundays at 11 am

All screenings are secret, and you are required to sign a legally binding non-disclosure document agreeing not to disclose the titles of the films before or after the screenings.
PASSES: \$60 (SIFF Members: \$55)

CLOSING NIGHT GALA

★ THE DRESSMAKER ★

Sunday, June 12, 6:00 pm, Cinerama

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$50 (SIFF members: \$45), includes admission to the film and after-party at MOHAI.
PREMIUM ADMISSION: \$100 (SIFF members: \$90), includes preferred entry to the film and open bar at the after-party.

★ SIFFX ★

June 2-5

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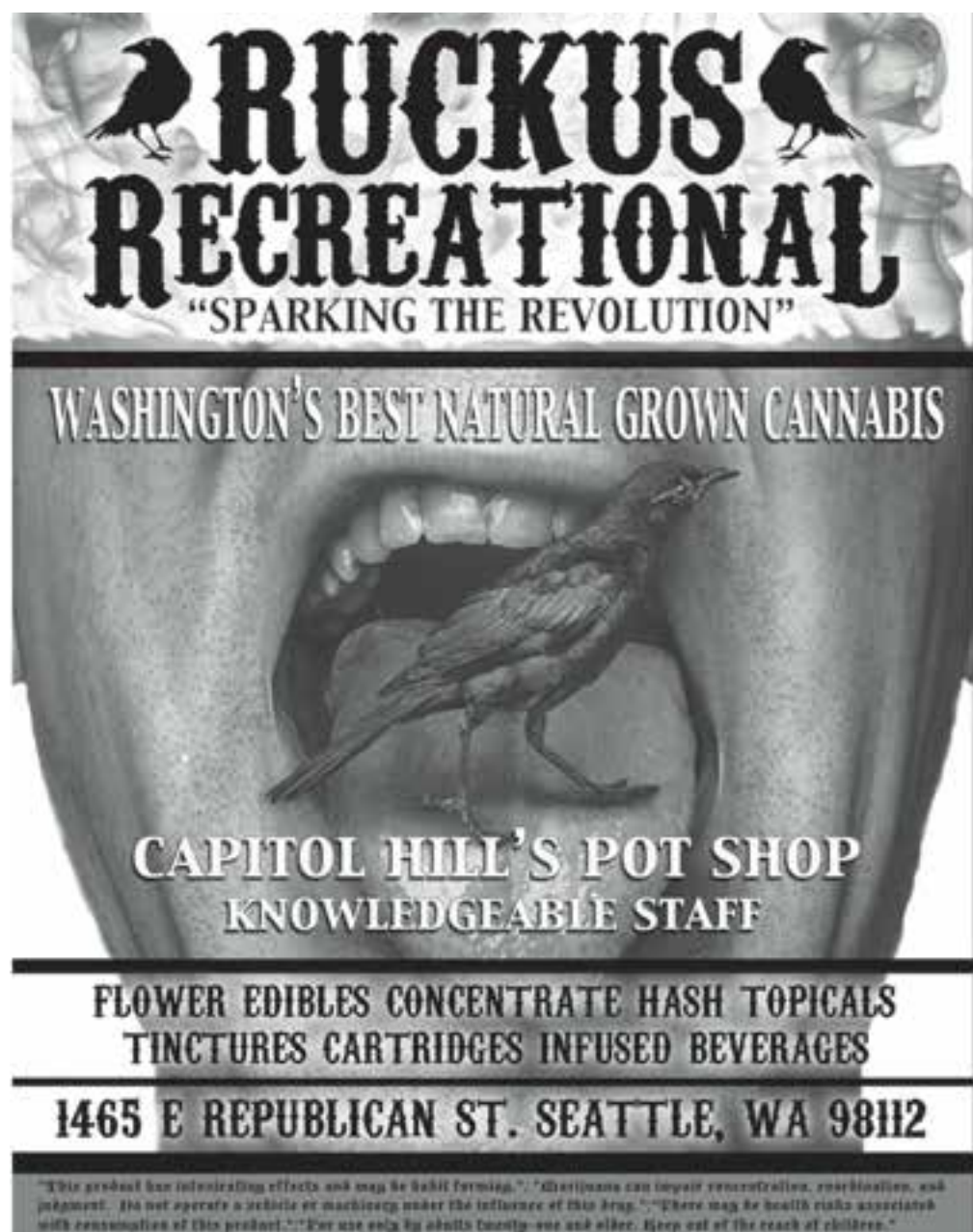


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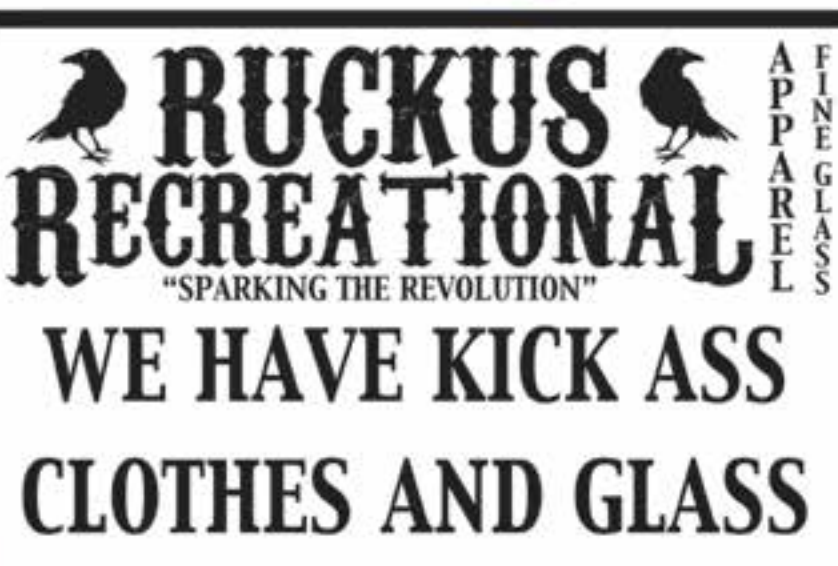
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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 12 pm

THE GREASY STRANGLER

USA, 2016, 93 min
Dir. Jim Hosking

SIFF Says: A modern masterpiece of bad taste, this grotesquely hilarious exercise in juvenile depravity and cheesy gore introduces a pair of disco tour guides whose town is terrorized by a slimy maniac who crushes skulls and eats eyeballs.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 10, 11:59 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 8:30 pm

★ HEAVEN CAN WAIT ★
USA, 1943, 112 min
Dir. Ernst Lubitsch

Stranger Says: After a lifetime of wandering eyes, an unrepentant playboy (Don Ameche) tries to talk his way into Hades. The Devil, however, proves to be a hard sell. Director Ernst Lubitsch's legendary gift for gab was never more on point than in this 1943 masterpiece, which is one of those movies where everything just hums. Funny and altogether gorgeous, with some surprisingly weighty themes smuggled underneath. And then Gene Tierney shows up and rockets the thing into the hereafter. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Newly restored by the Film Foundation, Ernst Lubitsch's enchanting and witty Technicolor comedy opens in the art-deco waiting room of Hell, where a recently deceased lothario (Don Ameche) recounts his life and misdeeds to a bemused Satan.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 28, 11 am

★ THE HIGH SUN ★
Croatia, 2015, 123 min
Dir. Dalibor Matani

Stranger Says: Two villages sit next to each other—one Serb, the other Croat. The people hold on to old prejudices and resentments even as they must coexist. The young people try to come together but are hindered by years of mistrust, violence, and cruelty. We see the area three times, in 10-year increments, always in sun-drenched summer. People want to connect with each other, make a life in this place, but old damage and long-simmering conflicts keep things tense. The countryside is beautifully filmed with intriguing visuals, and the stories are emotionally engaging and interesting. (GILLIAN ANDERSON) SIFF Says: Three separate romances take place over three decades in a pair of war-torn Balkan villages, with the same actors changing characters for each story, for a moving

illustration of the fragility, and enduring strength, of love.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Fri May 20, 4 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 3:45 pm

ARK LODGE CINEMA Mon June 6, 9 pm

HOLDING THE MAN
Australia, 2015, 127 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Neil Armfield

SIFF Says: Based on Tim Conigrave's bestselling memoir, this passionate drama tells the story of a years-long romance between two men, from their awkward and forbidden teenage beginnings through the ups and downs of their longtime relationship.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 10, 9:15 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sun June 12, 1 pm

★ HOME CARE ★

Czech Republic, 2015, 92 min
Dir. Slávek Horák



Stranger Says: Home Care is more than its trope: the subversion of vulnerability and power when a nurse becomes a patient. You get glimpses of rural Czech culture (drunk driving and a pregnant woman downing shots!) but more centrally, an exploration of the embodied trauma of womanhood; the main character is killing herself with her own kindness. Do keep watching, because the themes of spirituality and alternative medicine are more complex than they initially appear; also, prepare to remember the inevitability of death. The film's simple ending left me in noisy, embarrassing tears. (JULIA RABAN)

SIFF Says: This year's official Oscar® submission from the Czech Republic is the bittersweet tale of a home-care nurse with a variety of charmingly eccentric patients who is forced to step outside her comfort zone after realizing that she too could use some care.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 8:30 pm

MAJESTIC BAY Thu May 26, 4:15 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Tue May 31, 6:30 pm

HONOR THY FATHER
Philippines, 2015, 115 min

U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Erik Matti

SIFF Says: A thrilling suspense tale unfolds when a married Filipino couple is held responsible for perpetuating a Ponzi scheme, bilking millions of dollars out of the parishioners of their church, who immediately begin plotting violent revenge against the family.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 9:30 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

HOME CARE

Sat May 28, 5:30 pm
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Wed June 1, 9 pm

★ HORIZONS ★

DOC Switzerland, 2015, 70 min
Dir. Eileen Hofer

Stranger Says: By interweaving the lives of three dancers, Eileen Hofer's documentary reveals the mirror structures of classical ballet and Cuban communism, which are provocative to consider. There's also the plain pleasure of watching the moving bodies of young and earnest Amanda, accomplished but melancholy Viengsay, and Cuban ballet star—Prima Ballerina Assoluta—Alicia Alonso, whose body and sight are decaying rapidly, but who still fiercely directs the prestigious Ballet Nacional de Cuba. All three have a lonely quality that comes out in their movements rather than their words. There's not much of a story to the film, but there is a definite shape constructed by Hofer, beginning with a graceful, telling opening montage of the three spinning, first Alonso, perfect and as assured as a goddess, then Viengsay, near-perfect but with a worried look in her eyes, and finally, wobbly Amanda—a reminder that there is something of the old woman already in the youngest dancer. (JEN GRAVES) SIFF Says: An observational documentary showcasing the discipline and dedication of three generations of Cuban ballerinas, including Alicia Alonso, the 93-year-old founder of the National Ballet of Cuba who refused to give up her work even after losing most of her eyesight.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 3:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Tue May 24, 7 pm

★ HOW MOST THINGS WORK ★

Argentina, 2015, 93 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Fernando Salem

Stranger Says: Celina is a solemn young woman caring for her sick father while working at a tollbooth that no one comes to in rural Argentina. She wants to change her life, so she takes a job selling an encyclopedia called *The Way Almost All Things Work* that supposedly contains information on everything, including topics like love and survival. Celina is paired with a more experienced seller, and they set out. Main actor Verónica Gerez has a wonderful face, and women's stories are front-and-center in the film. Some characters are easy to sympathize with and others not, which gives a genuine feeling. One of the women says about her own life: "I felt like I wasn't the protagonist. I was an extra."

It's a story about looking for answers. (GILLIAN ANDERSON) SIFF Says: When her father passes away, sheltered Celina takes over his job as a traveling encyclopedia salesperson, training with a veteran saleswoman and setting out on her first road trip in order to earn enough money to travel to Italy and find her mother.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 5:30 pm

MAJESTIC BAY Sun May 22, 3:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 3 pm

★ HUMMUS ★

DOC Israel, 2016, 70 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Oren Rosenfeld

Stranger Says: Food is more than sustenance; it points to who we are as people—individuals with families and histories. This joyful film, ostensibly about hummus, the Middle Eastern chickpea spread loved around the world, is actually a journey, via some of the region's cooks and restaurateurs, through its gen-

der politics, religious tensions, and familial traditions. (It also includes a brief, surreal detour through the Hebrew warrior arts and rap scene.) Everything about this movie is utterly charming, from its dated graphics to the animated cartoon chickpea that travels through maps of Israel and Lebanon in search of delicious, hummus-filled spots. (ANGELA GARBES) SIFF Says: Travel around the world, across religious and cultural divides, to discover the origins of the nutritious chickpea dish, and meet a diverse group of hummus disciples, including those vying for the title of "World's Largest Serving of Hummus."

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 6 pm

MAJESTIC BAY Wed May 25, 4 pm

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE

New Zealand, 2016, 93 min
Dir. Taika Waititi

SIFF Says: The latest from New Zealand director Taika Waititi (*What We Do in the Shadows*) is a

heartwarming adventure comedy about a "bad egg" foster kid who triggers a manhunt when he escapes into the forest with his cantankerous new guardian (Sam Neill).

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER
Fri June 3, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 4, 8:30 pm

I AM BELFAST

DOC United Kingdom, 2015, 84 min
Dir. Mark Cousins

SIFF Says: Film essayist Mark Cousins (*The Story of Film*) enlists cinematographer Christopher Doyle (*In the Mood for Love*) for a cinematic love poem showcasing the everyday beauty of the dynamic, mythical city of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

SIFF FILM CENTER Fri June 10, 7 pm

SIFF FILM CENTER Sat June 11, 7 pm

ICE AND THE SKY

DOC France, 2015, 89 min
Dir. Luc Jacquet

SIFF Says: Oscar®-winning director Luc Jacquet (*March of the*

SHORTS RODEO

3 MINUTE MASTERPIECES

2016, 60 min

SIFF Says: How hard could it be to make a three-minute film? We challenged you to find out.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 10 am

ALT SHORTS

2013, 87 min

SIFF Says: History is taken out of context and the present is abstracted in this collection of shorts from the other side of cinema.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 9:15 pm

ANIMATION4ADULTS

2016, 91 min

SIFF Says: This year's animated package travels space and time to bring you bold, startling, new visions.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 9 pm

COMING OF AGE

2016, 89 min

SIFF Says: There is always a point in life when you choose a path to follow.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 4:30 pm

CORTO Y MARAVILLOSO

2016, 89 min

SIFF Says: Friends. Enemies. Lovers. The Virgin Mary. Ole! SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 5:30 pm

THE DEVIL'S BROOD

2016, 88 min

SIFF Says: From Hell itself, miniature masterpieces of terror, suspense, and the supernatural. SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 9:30 pm

EXTREMELY AWKWARD AND INCREDIBLY FUNNY

2016, 88 min

SIFF Says: An awkwardly awesome program of shorts with stories that would almost be embarrassing if they weren't

so ridiculously hilarious.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 7 pm

THE FAMILY PICTURE SHOW

2016, 91 min

SIFF Says: Bring the whole family to the cinema for a playful set of animated, live action, and documentary short films curated for the young and the young at heart.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 11:30 am

FUTUREWAVE SHORTS / BEST OF NFFTY

2016, 85 min

SIFF Says: The next generation of filmmakers have extraordinary talent and share their own unique voices. These international shorts from filmmakers 18 and under point the way to an exceptional cinematic tomorrow.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 3:30 pm

GROWING UP GAY

2016, 91 min

SIFF Says: From bullies to discos, tender first love to decades old gay anthems, there is always a point of no return.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 6:30 pm

NORTHERN TALES

2016, 98 min

SIFF Says: Teddy bears to taxis, grandmothers to growing up—these shorts from Seattle have it all.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 11:30 am

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

2016, 70 min

SIFF Says: The exodus of Syrian and Iraqi refugees comes with lessons of cultural integration and acceptance. This program gives a glimpse into the sociopolitical issues riddling this region. From films made by refugees to sexuality in diverse Middle Eastern societies, these eclectic stories by Middle Eastern direc-

tors will grip your senses.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 3:30 pm

SHORTSFEST OPENING NIGHT

2016, 98 min

SIFF Says: It is our great pleasure to open our ShortsFest weekend with this collection of superb short films from around the world that exemplify the art of storytelling in all its variety. Comedy and drama, live action and animation—these films prove that short is truly sweet.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 7 pm

SHORTSFEST CLOSING NIGHT

2016, 89 min

SIFF Says: SIFF's annual celebration of the short subject finishes off with a dynamically varied program examining the breezy joy and tremendous complexity found in the best short films.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 6:30 pm

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE

2016, 90 min

SIFF Says: From hilarious to heartbreaking, never underestimate the power of the things we do for love.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 3 pm

UNCHARTED TERRITORIES

2016, 87 min

SIFF Says: From as far as South Africa to as close as your parents' backyard, these films cross boundaries in surprising ways.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 11:30 am

WTF?!

2016, 86 min

SIFF Says: Think you know where you're going? Guess again. These quick flicks will make you ask WTF?!

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 9:30 pm

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Penguins) returns to Antarctica, this time with explorer and glaciologist Claude Lorius, to explore humanity's effect on the climate of the planet through air bubbles containing millennia-old clues.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 11:30 am

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 7 pm

THE IF PROJECT

DOC USA, 2016, 88 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Kathlyn Horan

Stranger Says: This quiet, simple documentary about women in prison in Washington State tries to capture something hard to see: How writing can make life better. The "if" refers to the question inmates are asked in a writing group: "If there was something someone could have said or done that would have changed the path that led you here, what would it have been?" While the women's answers are emotional, and could plausibly dissuade other criminals from following in their footsteps, the real power in this movie comes from an unlikely place: a cop. Seattle Police Department detective Kim Bogucki leads the workshops, radiates compassion, and believes in prevention and intervention over the standard punitive procedures of the prison-industrial complex. (CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE) **SIFF Says:** A compassionate Seattle police officer creates a unique writing program along with a group of inmates at a maximum-security women's prison, challenging them to answer a simple question with a difficult answer: What if things had been different?

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 21, 3:30 pm
PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 22, 11 am

IF THERE'S A HELL BELOW

USA, 2016, 94 min

Dir. Nathan Williams

Stranger Says: The feature film *If There's a Hell Below* is stark—both in its dialogue and its sweeping views of idyllic (if a little creepy) landscapes of rural Washington. Conversation between bright-eyed Abe, a city reporter, and Debra, who claims to work for national security, is as sparse as their surroundings, which brings viewers along on their awkward, 90-minute car ride through Nowhere, Washington, that flits between too much and too little chatter. Viewers will find themselves simultaneously charmed and disgusted by Abe, as he tries to interview Debra, who has no interest in being the next Snowden or Manning. When Debra announces that they are being followed, the tangle of dread begins knotting together. Viewers watch as naïve Abe's view of Debra shifts from trusted source to paranoid woman. It's only when the pair are pursued by a gold Suburban that the dangers of precious knowledge really come to light. Between car chases and un-soundtracked frames of near silence, *Hell Below* will leave viewers with burning questions, namely: "What the fuck did I miss?" (ANA SOFIA KNAUF) **SIFF Says:** An ambitious journalist and a nervous whistleblower meet to exchange secret information against the isolated backdrop of rural Washington in this atmospheric neo-noir of political intrigue in a post-Snowden world.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 8:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Thu May 26, 4:30 pm

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

★ ILLEGITIMATE ★

Romania, 2016, 89 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Adrian Sitaru

Stranger Says: The fact that lovely old papa was an informer and denied women abortions during the Communist regime is revealed in the first 10 minutes of *Illegitimate*—and that news is dull compared to the rest of the scandal. With equal parts shouting and silence, the film develops various arguments about morality and legality as negotiated by a tight-knit Romanian family. Expect drama worthy of a prime-time soap opera slot wrapped in an earnest indie movie package, featuring a cast of characters that come across as generally unaffected and touchingly genuine. (JULIA RABAN) **SIFF Says:** A seemingly happy Romanian family is torn apart by a series of revealed secrets after the father, a retired doctor, confesses that during the Communist regime he would unrepentantly report women seeking abortions to the authorities.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 4:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sun May 29, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 30, 9:15 pm

IMMORTAL

Iran, 2015, 90 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Hadi Mohaghegh

Stranger Says: I saw little hope in *Immortal*, a deeply depressing drama that pulls off its aim of provoking a series of prolonged, visceral sensations of nauseated sadness. Wide shots and oppressive silence weigh down, and the few close-ups highlight gruesome decay or utter emotional despair. There are a few, rare moments of vaguely optimistic levity, including a stellar performance by a very impressive mutt who somehow conveyed grief as well as his/her human coworkers. If there's a glimmer of positivity, it's that eventually, death will come and all pain will pass. (JULIA RABAN) **SIFF Says:** In the deeply humane and gloriously cinematic tradition of Abbas Kiarostami, this story of a guilt-ridden old man and his grandson is also an affecting meditation on those things that make life worth living.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 6 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Tue June 7, 4:30 pm

IN A VALLEY OF VIOLENCE

USA, 2016, 104 min

Dir. Ti West

SIFF Says: A lone gunman (Ethan Hawke) and his devoted collie find themselves at odds with the hostile marshal of a small, dusty border town (John Travolta) in this hilariously bloody homage to classic Westerns from director Ti West (*The Innkeepers*).

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 28, 9:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sun May 29, 3:30 pm

★ INDIGNATION ★

USA, 2016, 109 min

Dir. James Schamus

Stranger Says: While adjusting to life at a Midwestern college during the Korean War, a driven New York Jewish boy asks out a beautiful, worldly Gentile. Since this is based on a Philip Roth novel, things soon get... unlove-ly. It takes a reel or two for the largely excellent cast to really pick up the pungent rhythms of

the dialog, but once they do, hoo boy, watch out. Fascinating and merciless, with a central rhetorical showdown in the dean's office that is just the damndest thing. (ANDREW WRIGHT) **SIFF Says:** Frequent Ang Lee collaborator James Schamus steps into the director's chair to adapt Philip Roth's novel about an independent-minded college student (Logan Lerman, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*) at odds with the mindset of 1950s America.

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 21, 6:30 pm
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sun May 22, 3 pm

THE INNOCENTS

France, 2016, 115 min

Dir. Anne Fontaine

SIFF Says: French filmmaker Anne Fontaine's deeply moving new drama takes place in 1945 Poland, where a young French Red Cross doctor discovers an order of Benedictine nuns searching for help and redemption after a series of assaults by the "liberating" Red Army.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 7 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sat June 4, 8:45 pm

INSATIABLE: THE HOMARO CANTU STORY

DOC USA, 2016, 98 min

Dir. Brett A. Schwartz

SIFF Says: Follow the journey of famed chef, inventor, and food activist Homaro Cantu, who rose from a childhood of poverty and abuse to open his first restaurant, Chicago's Moto, at age 27, revolutionizing molecular gastronomy.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Fri June 3, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 2:30 pm

THE INTERVENTION

USA, 2016, 91 min

Dir. Clea DuVall

SIFF Says: Actress Clea DuVall's directorial debut is a modern twist on *The Big Chill*, with a top-notch indie cast portraying a group of friends whose reunion getaway goes south when it is revealed that the trip was orchestrated as an intervention for one troubled marriage.

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 28, 6:30 pm
SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sun May 29, 3:30 pm

★ THE ISLAND FUNERAL ★

Thailand, 2015, 105 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Pimpaka Towira

Stranger Says: A Muslim brother and sister travel to an unfamiliar section of Thailand with their friend in tow, only to find the landscape becoming less hospitable with every passing mile. While a certain amount of meandering is expected in any road movie, director/cowriter Pimpaka Towira's beautifully ominous mood piece gets thorny gratifyingly fast, raising a number of lingering political and religious issues with no easy resolutions. Spooky, in a way that sticks. (ANDREW WRIGHT) **SIFF Says:** Three Thai youth leave Bangkok to visit a long-lost aunt and end up on a mesmerizing, terrifying, and subversively genre-bending journey through the heavily militarized countryside that ends with the discovery of an unexpected new society.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 8:30 pm

SIFF FILM CENTER Fri May 27, 9 pm

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



LAMB

KEDI

DOC Turkey, 2016, 79 min
Dir. Ceyda Torun

Stranger Says: This documentary has lots of beautiful shots of the city of Istanbul, the gateway to the East and the gateway to the West. But the subject of the film is not the city itself but its street cats, which appear to be numerous and content with the ways of life their city provides. American street cats look wild, dirty, scrawny. These street cats look the same as domestic ones. And people love them, feed them, pamper them, and tranquilly endure their bad habits and uppity attitudes. One man says: "Dogs think we are gods; cats know we are not gods." Cat lovers cannot afford to miss this documentary. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Meet the most beloved residents of Istanbul: cats! For thousands of years these furry feline friends have had free rein over the streets and homes of this ancient metropolis, where the people revere them as spiritual creatures that bring joy and purpose.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 21, 11 am
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 3 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 12 pm

KILO TWO BRAVO

United Kingdom, 2015, 108 min
Dir. Paul Katis

SIFF Says: A relentless, *Hurt Locker*-esque true story about a patrol of British paratroopers in Afghanistan who, while trying to disable a Taliban roadblock, are marooned in a minefield along the Kajaki dam.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Sun May 29, 7:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Tue May 31, 9:30 pm
PACIFIC PLACE Tue June 7, 9:30 pm

KINGDOM OF CLAY SUBJECTS

Bangladesh, 2016, 88 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Bljon

SIFF Says: Set in rural Bangladesh, this humane look at the traditions of Bangladeshi society is shown from the point of view of 10-year-old Jamal, who is struggling to understand the ways that caste and gender affect the strong women in his life.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 6:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 12 pm

★ **LAMB** ★

Ethiopia, 2015, 94 min
Dir. Yared Zeleke

Stranger Says: Every shot in this film, which is the first Ethiopian movie to premiere at Cannes (its director

Yared Zeleke attended NYU), is so packed with cultural information that you will lose track of its story, which is not complicated. It concerns a rural boy and his close relationship to a lamb. This furry animal also loves the boy, who has recently lost his mother. When the boy's father moves to the city to look for work, he leaves his son with relatives. The rural world of the boy, his family, and animal, which constantly faces the danger of becoming dinner, has no electricity, running water, or any of conveniences of a modern home. What these people have are lots of traditions and rituals. Before a word is spoken on some matter, there is all of this kissing and other formalities that must happen. This is how it's done in the country. The cinematography, strong performances, and solid direction make this work one of the best in the African Pictures section of the festival. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: After he is sent to live with his uncle in a small farming village, 9-year-old Ephraim must protect his beloved pet lamb from a traditional holiday sacrifice. Meanwhile, his headstrong female cousin challenges customs in her own way.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 6 pm
ARK LODGE CINEMA Wed June 8, 8:30 pm

THE LAND

USA, 2016, 97 min
Dir. Steven Caple Jr.

SIFF Says: Yearning to escape the mean streets of Cleveland, four teenage skateboarders turn to petty crime only to run afoul of a local drug queenpin. Featuring supporting work from Michael Kenneth Williams (*The Wire*) and Grammy-winning singer Erykah Badu.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Fri June 3, 9 pm
PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 4, 1:30 pm

★ **LAST CAB TO DARWIN** ★

Australia, 2015, 123 min
Dir. Jeremy Sims

Stranger Says: A man in the Australian outback travels to Darwin to take advantage of newly passed right-to-die legislation. He is a white man in love with a black woman, which starts as a secret source of painful shame—but looming death ever-so-slowly overrides his intense fear of judgment; also, he makes a few good friends along the way, including a cute boy who is mysteriously (and probably mistakenly, from a narrative standpoint) replaced by a cute girl. Charming, sad, and beautifully ugly. (JULIA RABAN)
SIFF Says: Proving that it's never too late to start living, this wryly comic road movie follows a 70-year-old taxi driver who, after

discovering he has terminal cancer, embarks on an eye-opening journey across the Australian outback in search of a pioneering physician.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Fri May 27, 9 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 6:30 pm

THE LAST KING

Norway, 2015, 100 min
Dir. Nils Gaup

Stranger Says: Vikings! On skis! The director of *Pathfinder* returns to further bloody up the Norwegian snow with this tale of a small band of warriors tasked to protect their Infant King. While the action scenes are impressive, the narrative unfortunately feels a bit too sparse to really tie everything together. Still fun to watch, however, with a bevy of gorgeously wide open spaces, some extremely painful looking stunts, and an Evil Henchman who sounds like he gargles tar recreationally. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Set in the vast snowy wilderness of 11th-century Norway, this epic action adventure, based on historical legend, is like *Game of Thrones* on skis, as two members of a warrior clan raise swords and arrows to protect the infant heir to the throne.

MAJESTIC BAY Fri May 20, 7 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 23, 9:30 pm

LES COWBOYS

France, 2015, 104 min
Dir. Thomas Bidegain

SIFF Says: An inventive, dramatic update of *The Searchers* set amid France's rarely explored modern cowboy subculture, the directorial debut from the celebrated writer of *Rust and Bone* joins a father on a decades-long quest to find his runaway daughter.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 3:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 5:30 pm

LIFE, ANIMATED

DOC USA, 2016, 91 min
Dir. Roger Ross Williams

SIFF Says: A young autistic man emerges from his internal life after his father discovers that they can communicate through dialogue from beloved Disney films in a beautiful and remarkable story based on the best-selling book by journalist Ron Suskind.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 7 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu June 9, 4:30 pm

LILY LANE

Hungary, 2016, 91 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Bence Fliegauf

SIFF Says: In this Hungarian tale evoking the enigmatic styles of Terrence Malick and Andrei





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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

Tarkovsky, a mother living on the edge entertains her young son with dark recollections of her past that blur the lines between fantasy and reality.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sun May 22, 9 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Mon May 23, 9 pm*
PACIFIC PLACE *Tue May 24, 4:30 pm*

LITTLE MEN

USA, 2016, 85 min
Dir. Ira Sachs

SIFF Says: Director Ira Sachs (*Love is Strange*) explores the deepening friendship between two very different boys whose families enter into a heated and escalating battle over the rent of their shared brownstone in a quickly gentrifying Brooklyn.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Tue May 24, 7 pm*
MAJESTIC BAY *Wed May 25, 9 pm*

**LO AND BEHOLD:
REVERIES OF THE
CONNECTED WORLD**

DOC USA, 2016, 98 min
Dir. Werner Herzog

SIFF Says: From the great Werner Herzog comes a beguiling philosophical exploration of how the internet and technology has changed humanity, featuring interviews with visionaries, scientists, hackers, and a group of forest dwellers recovering from “internet overdose.”

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS *Sun May 29, 1 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Sat June 4, 8 pm*

★ **LONG WAY NORTH** ★
France, 2015, 81 min
Dir. Rémi Chayé

Stranger Says: Attempting to regain her family’s honor, a young Russian girl travels to the frozen wastes on a quest for a lost heirloom. Utilizing a cannily limited animation style reminiscent of the old *Zelda: Wind Waker* game, this French-Danish cartoon manages to evoke both Jack London and Miyazaki. The message is unforced, the protagonist is realistically strong, and the scenes of lonely Arctic desolation carry a genuinely uneasy charge. All this, plus a just perfectly designed dog, to boot. More dog, please. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: In this enchanting and epic animated adventure, a 15-year-old Russian aristocrat embarks on a harrowing and dangerous journey to the North Pole in a desperate search for her explorer grandfather and his famous ship.

PACIFIC PLACE *Sat May 21, 11 am*
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS *Sun May 22, 1 pm*
IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER *Sun May 29, 1 pm*

★ **THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING** ★

USA, 2003, 201 min

Dir. Peter Jackson

Stranger Says: Frodo and Sam head to Mount Doom, Gandalf and Aragorn (SIFF honoree Viggo Mortensen) take the fight to Sauron, and you most likely know all of this already. Peter Jackson’s 2003 Oscar vacuum is the all-too-rare instance of a blockbuster where everyone involved seems to sincerely, unironically believe in the tale they are telling, from director to cast to key grip. Even the oft-lampooned multiple endings now feel like an excusable victory lap. Plus, I mean, that scene with the War Elephants, holy cripes. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Peter Jackson’s landmark *Lord of the Rings* trilogy comes to a rousing conclusion, as the remaining members of the Fellowship converge upon Minas Tirith and Mount Doom for the final battle to destroy the One Ring. Winner of 11 Academy Awards®.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sat June 11, 11:30 pm*
★ **LOVE & FRIENDSHIP** ★
USA, 2016, 94 min
Dir. Whit Stillman

Stranger Says: Who better than Whit Stillman, who has been flirting with Jane Austen since that brilliant exchange about *Mansfield Park* in his exquisite debut, *Metropolitan*, to adapt and extrapolate a story Austen wrote in her teens? (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Whit Stillman (*Metropolitan*, *The Last Days of Disco*) delivers a marvelously witty take on Jane Austen’s novella about cunning widow Lady Susan Vernon (Kate Beckinsale) who plots and flirts to find suitable husbands for herself and her daughter.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Sat May 21, 5 pm*
PACIFIC PLACE *Sun May 22, 4 pm*

THE LOVERS AND THE DESPOT

DOC United Kingdom, 2016, 94 min
Dir. Robert Cannan, Ross Adam

SIFF Says: A real-life espionage thriller about a famous South Korean director and his actress wife who planned a daring escape after being kidnapped and forced to work as the personal filmmakers of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS *Sat May 21, 1 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Mon May 23, 9:30 pm*

THE LURE

Poland, 2015, 92 min
Dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska

Stranger Says: Two mermaid sisters rock the house at a Warsaw nightclub, while occasionally snacking on the audience. Note: Nothing above is a typo. Movies that blatantly aim for instant cult status can be frustrating, and there are more than a few times here where it feels like director Agnieszka Smoczyńska is just chucking random weirdness at the camera, rather than following any sort of internal logic. Still, the colors are bright, the performers are game, and the songs are exceedingly hummable. And, I mean, come on, it’s a musical about Killer Vampire Mermaids. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: A fanciful horror-tinged New Wave rock opera transpires when a pair of bewitching mermaids emerge from the sea to join a Warsaw nightclub act, then face some cruel, bloody choices when one of them falls in love with a handsome young bass player.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Fri May 27, 9:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sat May 28, 4 pm*
SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE *Sun May 29, 9:15 pm*

**THE MADS ARE BACK:
GLEN OR GLENDA**

USA, 1953, 120 min

Dir. Ed Wood Jr.

SIFF Says: Frank Conniff and Trace Beaulieu, the B-movie-tormenting mad scientists of “Mystery Science Theater 3000,” take to the stage for a live comedy riffing on Ed Wood Jr.’s confusingly told but heartfelt tale of a young transvestite struggling to

find acceptance.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sat May 21, 11:59 pm*

MA MA

Spain, 2015, 111 min
Dir. Julio Medem

SIFF Says: Penélope Cruz delivers an extraordinarily emotional performance as a woman who forms a bond with a grieving father just after she is diagnosed with an advanced form of breast cancer in a stylishly melodramatic tale from the acclaimed director of *Sex and Lucia*.

MAJESTIC BAY *Wed May 25, 6:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Fri May 27, 4 pm*

A MAN CALLED OVE

Sweden, 2015, 116 min
Dir. Hannes Holm

SIFF Says: Based on the best-selling novel, Sweden’s biggest hit of the year is an endearing, crowd-pleasing, and wonderfully curmudgeonly comedy about a grumpy old man who finds his caustic view of the world put to the test when a new family moves in next door.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sat May 28, 6:30 pm*
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN *Sun May 29, 1:30 pm*

★ **MARZIA, MY FRIEND** ★

DOC Finland, 2015, 80 min
Dir. Kirsi Mattila

Stranger Says: This is a different kind of edge-of-your-seat movie. It’s a tragedy in slow, inexorable motion. You lean forward, hold your head in your hands, mutter, “No.” And so does the director. But intervention is impossible, a feeling embodied by the director, Kirsi Mattila, the Finnish documentarian who follows four years in the life of Marzia, the hopeful Afghan TV journalist. Incremental step by incremental step, Marzia falls deeper and deeper. Her choices narrow. She is threatened with death and acid. She goes from feisty, educated, 19-year-old working woman with a fiancé who supports her drive to work, to unemployed married shut-in with a husband who sometimes hits her (it’s only when he can’t figure out how to express himself, she explains) and a daughter that Marzia knows she won’t be able to do any better for. She may as well be an illiterate woman, she tells Kirsi, because she never leaves home anymore. Every night on TV, she watches her husband. He’s the journalist she wanted to be. Kirsi’s documentary is a love letter to Marzia, with a voiceover script full of sorrow and a rising acknowledgment of outsider naivete. “I don’t understand,” Marzia, a free, working woman, tells Kirsi at one point. It’s an embarrassing admission. There’s nothing to understand, only to mourn. (JEN GRAVES)

SIFF Says: A Finnish documentarian befriends a young woman based in Kabul with big dreams but limited options, offering a window into the struggles of Afghan women and illustrating the possibilities and limitations of friendship.

PACIFIC PLACE *Tue June 7, 7 pm*
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN *Wed June 8, 4 pm*

★ **MAYA ANGELOU:
AND STILL I RISE** ★

DOC USA, 2016, 115 min

Dir. Bob Hercules, Rita Coburn Whack
Stranger Says: Everyone knows Maya Angelou for her now canonical auto-bio, *I Know Why the Caged*



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MI

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



MARZIA, MY FRIEND

Bird Sings, but this doc reminds you that there weren't many major artistic or political post-war movements that Maya Angelou didn't contribute to in a serious and enduring way. The film tracks her life from the day her parents put her on that train to Arkansas, where she suffered serial rape as a child, to her rise out of that mess. Writing with Hughes in Harlem, chilling with Baldwin, MLK, Malcolm X. Starring in Jean Genet's *The Blacks*. Writing lyrics for B.B. King. Being Kunta Kinte's grandmother in *Roots*. Publishing a million books. Formally, the doc's just interviews with people in chairs cut with photographs of those people when they were younger. But you'll clap internally for two hours as Maya and friends (even Hillary Clinton!) talk about how she made made history. (RICH SMITH) **SIFF Says:** Made over a four-year period, and featuring interviews with the iconic writer herself, this inspirational and informative documentary uses an effective chronological approach to celebrate beloved poet Maya Angelou and her work.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Thu June 9, 6:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 11, 4 pm

MEKKO

USA, 2015, 87 min
Dir. Sterlin Harjo

Stranger Says: Good vs. Evil story about a Native seer-figure who rids his homeless and working-class Native community of an Estekini, a shapeshifting witch in the form of a mean dude who kills the very people he claims to protect. The depictions of urban Native poverty were something I hadn't seen before, and seemed vital and necessary, but the film's pacing is glacial and the acting's stilted, save for Jamie Loy's excellent performance. (RICH SMITH) **SIFF Says:** In this uncompromising thriller set against the streets of Tulsa, a Muscogee Indian is released from prison and falls in with the homeless "street chiefs" at the edge of the city, struggling to find shelter, hope, and redemption among the local Native population.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 3 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 12 pm

★ THE MEMORY OF FISH ★

USA, 2016, 54 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Jennifer Galvin, Sachi Cunningham

Stranger Says: No one loved the Elwha River like Dick Goin, a machinist-turned-activist who

grew up along its borders. At a time when scientists were busy elsewhere, he kept track of the dwindling salmon population, filling notebooks with his findings. "Dams and fish can't work together at all," he states, so he made dam removal his mission. Alongside narration from Lili Taylor, codirectors Jennifer Galvin and Sachi Cunningham tell Goin's story through stunning nature imagery and his lyrical words. As he concludes, "A river doesn't want to be tethered." This is a lovely tribute to one of the Northwest's most passionate conservationists. (KATHY FENNESY)

SIFF Says: Watching as the wild salmon he loved began steadily disappearing, retired mill worker-turned-conservationist Dick Goin decided to dedicate his life to restoring Washington's Elwha River by battling for the biggest dam-removal project in U.S. history.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 4 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 3 pm

MICROBE AND GASOLINE

France, 2015, 105 min
Dir. Michel Gondry

Stranger Says: Michel Gondry, the director of one the previous decade's defining films, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, has been consistently (or successively) hit or miss. 2012's *We and the I*, for example, goes in the hit category. *Microbe and Gasoline*, Gondry's latest, must fall into the miss one. The film is gorgeous but its story is so very vapid, even with all of its dashes and splashes of magical realism (or pop surrealism). Coming-of-age movies, particularly those that concern middle-class white kids, are now too tired like a bicycle. (CHARLES MUDEDE) **SIFF Says:** Michel Gondry's wildly inventive and sweetly comic celebration of friendship joins two teenage misfits—Microbe, an artist, and Gasoline, a mechanic—on an unconventional road trip through the French countryside in a homemade house on wheels.

MAJESTIC BAY Sat May 21, 1 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 23, 7 pm

MIDDLE MAN

USA, 2016, 101 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Ned Crowley

SIFF Says: This hilarious and thrilling Coen Brothers-esque comedy of errors introduces a hapless wannabe comedian (Jim O'Heir, *Parks and Recreation*)

who finds himself caught up in a desert killing spree with an unexpected consequence—it greatly improves his stand-up.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 9 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 11:30 am

MIDSUMMER IN NEWTOWN

USA, 2016, 80 min
Dir. Lloyd Kramer

Stranger Says: Soon after a young man forced his way into Sandy Hook Elementary School and murdered 20 children and six staff members with a semiautomatic rifle, Broadway producers staged a youth production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Newtown, and filmmaker Lloyd Kramer made this documentary about it. Bits and pieces of each family's intense, indescribable grief slowly emerge through the production, but the film is mostly focused on the impressive impact of the arts on traumatized communities. The healing power of theater is certainly moving, but it's much less satisfying than, say, gun control legislation, and often feels like a disappointing stopgap. (JULIA RABAN)

SIFF Says: In a testament to the healing power of art, a theatre director unites the community of Newtown, Connecticut, one year after the tragic school shooting of 2012 to help produce a rock musical version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

MAJESTIC BAY Sat May 21, 3:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 5:30 pm

MILES

USA, 2016, 90 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Nathan Adloff

SIFF Says: High-school senior Miles Walton, whose mother (Molly Shannon) is left broke after his father passes away, causes an uproar in his small Illinois town when he discovers an unusual college scholarship opportunity through a loophole that allows him to join the girls' volleyball team.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 21, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun May 22, 1:30 pm

THE MOBFATHERS

Hong Kong, 2016, 94 min
Dir. Herman Yau

SIFF Says: Brimming with bloody underworld intrigue, the latest from Hong Kong's Herman Yau chronicles the battle for supremacy among five power-hungry gangsters vying to replace the ail-

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

M-I-N



THE NIGHT
STALKER

ing, seemingly omnipotent triad Godfather (Anthony Wong).

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 9:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 4:30 pm

A MONSTER WITH A
THOUSAND HEADS

Mexico, 2015, 75 min
Dir. Rodrigo Plá

SIFF Says: After medical care is refused for her terminally ill husband, a distraught woman fights the system in increasingly violent ways in this sociopolitical revenge thriller that tackles head-on the faceless bureaucracy and greed of the insurance industry.

PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 23, 9 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 9:30 pm

MOON IN THE 12TH
HOUSE

Israel, 2016, 110 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Dorit Hakim

Stranger Says: Mira is a down-on-her-luck wannabe astrologer, who leaves her trendy nightclub job and drug-dealing boyfriend in Tel Aviv and returns to the home of her childhood, which is somewhere between a suburb and a small town, to find her estranged sister, Lenny, caring for their ailing father. Lenny, a goodie-two-shoes type who has never even been to a nightclub, is justifiably cautious about why Mira has suddenly shown up. The sisters attempt an awkward reconciliation and embark upon 90 minutes of painstakingly predictable sibling rivalry. (RACHEL GABRIELLE) **SIFF Says:** When a pair of estranged Israeli sisters—one who stayed at the childhood home to care for their debilitated father, the other who left for a new life in Tel Aviv—are reunited, they must come to terms with the circumstances that tore them apart.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 12:30 pm

MORRIS FROM
AMERICA

USA, 2016, 89 min
Dir. Chad Hartigan

SIFF Says: This nuanced and hilarious fish-out-of-water tale follows 13-year-old Morris, who fancies himself the next Notorious B.I.G. until his single father (Craig Robinson) moves them to Heidelberg, Germany, making him feel like a budding hip-hop star in an EDM world.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Wed June 1, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu June 2, 4:30 pm

MOTHERLAND

Turkey, 2015, 96 min
Dir. Senem Tüzen

SIFF Says: The traditional Turk-

ish community and the modern individual come face to face when a progressive young woman recovering from a divorce returns to her grandmother's village to finish her novel—and her conservative mother shows up uninvited.

SIFF FILM CENTER Sat May 21, 7 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 9:30 pm
IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Mon May 30, 3:15 pm

MOUNTAIN

Israel, 2015, 83 min
Dir. Yaelle Kayam

SIFF Says: An Orthodox woman finds her world turned upside down by the discovery of a nocturnal marketplace for sex and drugs in an ancient Jerusalem graveyard in this graceful exploration of yearning, featuring a breakthrough performance from Shani Klein.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 23, 3:30 pm
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Mon May 30, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 9 pm

MOUNTAINS MAY
DEPART

China, 2015, 131 min
Dir. Jia Zhangke

SIFF Says: Masterful Chinese director Jia Zhangke (*A Touch of Sin*) returns with a decades-spanning drama about a young woman who marries for money, a parable for China's embrace of materialism and the ways it has affected the bonds of family and tradition.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 3 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 10, 9:45 pm

MR. GAGA

DOC Israel, 2015, 100 min
Dir. Tomer Heymann

Stranger Says: The most remarkable thing about choreographer Ohad Naharin is that he didn't start his professional training until he was 22, after his mandatory enlistment in the Israeli Army. Naharin studied simultaneously at both Juilliard and the School of American Ballet, and has been running Tel Aviv's Batsheva Dance Company since 1990. Although the film doesn't truly define Naharin's Gaga style of dance, it's still a fascinating look inside the life and mind of the reigning godfather of modern dance (while fulfilling every stereotype of we've already seen of a dance company's pompous artistic director.) (RACHEL GABRIELLE) **SIFF Says:** This intimate documentary immerses us in the beauty of contemporary dance, and gives us an exclusive behind-the-curtain look at the mind of renowned choreographer Ohad Naharin, artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat

May 28, 3:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 30, 6 pm

MUCH LOVED

Morocco, 2015, 103 min
Dir. Nabil Ayouch

SIFF Says: Banned in Morocco due to its controversial content, *Much Loved* tells the stories of four sex workers in Marrakesh operating on the margins of society. From Nabil Ayouch, the Golden Space Needle Award-winning director of *Horses of God* (SIFF 2013).

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sun June 5, 6 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Thu June 9, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 2 pm

MURMUR OF THE
HEARTS

Hong Kong, 2015, 119 min
Dir. Sylvia Chang

SIFF Says: Taiwanese actress and filmmaker Sylvia Chang's tour-de-force family drama blends fantasy and reality for a stirring tale about two estranged siblings who reconnect through the shared memories of their mother's fairy tales of phantoms and mermaids.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 8:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sat June 4, 3:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 7 pm

THE MUSIC OF
STRANGERS: YO-YO MA
AND THE SILK ROAD
ENSEMBLE

DOC USA, 2015, 96 min
Dir. Morgan Neville

SIFF Says: From the director of the Oscar®-winning documentary *Twenty Feet from Stardom* comes the delightful globe-trotting story of celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his multicultural collective of inspiring master musicians from around the world.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sat May 28, 3:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 7 pm

MY BLIND BROTHER

USA, 2016, 90 min
Dir. Sophie Goodhart

SIFF Says: Comedy dynamos Adam Scott, Nick Kroll, and Jenny Slate star in an unconventional screwball romantic comedy about a lovable slacker who falls in love with the girlfriend of his blind, narcissistic brother.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Thu May 26, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 27, 7 pm

★ NAKOM ★

Ghana, 2016, 90 min
Dir. Kelly Daniela Norris, TW Pittman

Stranger Says: I was really surprised to learn that this film, which is about a cosmopolitan Ghanaian medical student who has to return to his village to deal with his father's funeral, was not made

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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

by Ghanaian but American-based filmmakers, TW Pittman and Kelly Daniela Norris (not African-sounding names). What the two clearly show with this work is you don't have to be from Ghana to make a good film about Ghanaians. *Nakom* is not anthropological or stiff or weird but straightforward and charming. It also has lots of cultural details. Indeed, sometimes you have to ignore the plot and look at what's going on in the background: the lively chickens, the dreary donkeys, the rickety bicycles, the sun-baked huts, the thin trees in the distance, the network of dirt paths. I also loved watching how these Ghanaians eat. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Talented medical student Iddrisu returns to his native Ghanaian village after his father's death only to be dragged back into family obligations in an intimate yet universal story of the struggles between tradition and progress, family and career.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 3:30 pm

NALEDI: A BABY ELEPHANT'S TALE

DOC USA, 2016, 90 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Ben Bowie, Geoff Luck

Stranger Says: Abu Camp in Botswana is a halfway house for elephants, animals that are orphaned or have been released from captivity. The film contains two stories: One is about humans hand-raising a baby elephant, and the second is about a pan-African aerial survey to check on the health of elephant populations all over the continent. This film is produced by Paul Allen and Vulcan, which is sponsoring the elephant census, and there is a heavy, gruesome emphasis on the dangers that elephants are facing from poaching and human encroachment. However, watching baby Naledi walking around wearing her little blanket will break your heart. (GILLIAN ANDERSON)

SIFF Says: More than a nature documentary, this tale of an orphaned baby elephant growing up in a Botswana rescue camp who does everything she can to survive against the odds is loaded with edge-of-your-seat moments, eye-opening information, and adorable animal footage.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun June 5, 4:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Mon June 6, 6 pm

A NEW HIGH

DOC USA, 2015, 100 min
Dir. Samuel Miron,
Stephen Scott Scarpulla

Stranger Says: The central premise of Mike Johnson's addicts-turned-mountain-climbers program is that if participants can summit Rainier, there's nothing they can't handle about, as he puts it, "climbing out of" homelessness and addiction. And vice versa. For such a sanguine metaphor, it's a surprisingly honest look at the highs and lows of that process and the men and women who endure it. (HEIDI GROOVER)

SIFF Says: An inspiring documentary following ex-Army Ranger Mike Johnson, who enriches the lives of a group of recovering addicts at Seattle's Union Gospel Mission by encouraging them to join him on a mission of personal discovery and redemption—climb-

ing to the 14,400-foot summit of Mt. Rainier.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Thu June 2, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Tue June 7, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 10, 4 pm

NEWS FROM PLANET MARS

France, 2016, 101 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Dominik Moll

SIFF Says: Belgian comic actor Francois Damiens stars as a beleaguered father whose eccentric, possibly psychotic houseguest sends his humdrum life spinning wildly out of control in an offbeat tale from director Dominik Moll (*With a Friend Like Harry*).

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 11, 9:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sun June 12, 8:30 pm

★ **THE NIGHT STALKER** ★
USA, 2016, 89 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Megan Griffiths

Stranger Says: While notorious serial killer Richard Ramirez (Lou Diamond Phillips) languishes on death row, an ambitious lawyer (Bellamy Young) attempts to unravel just exactly what makes him tick. Writer/director Megan Griffiths successfully captures the burbling hysteria of mid-'80s California, when every open window and slow-moving car carried a horrific potential energy. A smartly structured, admirably non-exploitive drama, anchored by a fine, scary performance from Phillips, who always remains just on the verge of chewing the scenery. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: This penetrating psychological thriller from Seattle's Megan Griffiths (*Lucky Them*) features a spine-chillingly magnetic performance from Lou Diamond Phillips as death-row inmate Richard Ramirez, California's notorious serial killer.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 5:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sun June 5, 1:30 pm

★ NORMAN LEAR: JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU ★

DOC USA, 2016, 91 min
Dir. Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady

Stranger Says: The only thing that prevents this loving, interesting portrait of a genuine TV giant with a great comedic mind and properly liberal heart from being a must-see is the film's reliance on the device of showing Lear's inner child observing the tableaux of his life. When will documentarians learn what Lear's best sitcoms knew all along: Trust the audience, trust the material. We're not idiots. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: A look at the life, work, and political activism of trailblazing writer and producer Norman Lear, who brought prime time into the modern era in the 1970s with a string of influential shows including *All in the Family*, *Good Times*, and *Sanford and Son*.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 20, 11 am

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 1:30 pm

NUEVA VENECIA

DOC Colombia, 2016, 80 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Emiliano Mazza de Luca

SIFF Says: A stunning, lyrical portrait of Nueva Venecia, a small fishing village perched on stilts above Colombia's Lake Tota, and the resilient citizens who have



OTHER GIRLS

managed a spirited way of life despite tragedy and devastation.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 10, 1 pm

NUTS!

DOC USA, 2016, 79 min
Dir. Penny Lane

SIFF Says: Inventive and wildly fun, filmmaker Penny Lane (*Our Nixon*) recounts the unbelievable true story of a Kansas doctor who became a sensation in Depression-era America after he claimed that he could cure impotence by transplanting goat testicles into men.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 4:30 pm

ODDBALL

Australia, 2015, 93 min
Dir. Stuart McDonald

SIFF Says: When a wild penguin sanctuary is threatened by hungry foxes, their only chance for survival might be an eccentric chicken farmer and his mischievous sheep dog in this Down Under family delight.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Sat May 28, 1 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 11:30 am

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sun June 5, 1 pm

THE OLIVE TREE

Spain, 2016, 98 min
Dir. Iciar Bollain

SIFF Says: A determined young woman journeys from Spain to Germany to retrieve a gnarled, thousand-year-old olive tree that is precious to her ailing grandfather after it has been sold to an energy company, in Iciar Bollain's earthy, bittersweet fable.

MAJESTIC BAY Sun May 22, 8:30 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Sun May 29, 5 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 6 pm

ONE KISS

Italy, 2016, 102 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Ivan Cotroneo

SIFF Says: In a small Northern Italian town, a friendship is formed between three teenage outsiders—an athlete with a speech impediment, a colorful gay foster kid, and a girl trying to live down her past—until an unwelcome rev-

elation tests their bond.

PACIFIC PLACE Tue May 31, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 3:30 pm

★ OTHER GIRLS ★

Finland, 2015, 80 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Esa Illi

Stranger Says: Four friends on the brink of independence deal with such hot topics as impulsive relationships, unexpected pregnancies, same-sex attractions, and the perils of playing hockey. Writer/director Esa Illi based the script on actual video diaries from Finnish teens, which explains the awkward realness of the emotions on display, as well as the occasional appearance of cartoon hearts in the background. Fast moving, well acted, and insightful, with a theme song that will never, ever leave your brain. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Based on the actual video diaries of teenage girls, this charming and energetic Finnish delight introduces four high-school girlfriends coping with romance, independence, trust, and self-acceptance as they near graduation and adulthood.

MAJESTIC BAY Tue May 24, 4:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 6:30 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Mon May 30, 8 pm

OTHER PEOPLE

USA, 2016, 97 min
Dir. Chris Kelly

SIFF Says: A struggling gay comedy writer (Jesse Plemons) returns to his childhood home, and his eccentric family, to care for his ailing mother (Molly Shannon) in an emotional story of everyday life and death from *Saturday Night Live* and *Broad City* scribe Chris Kelly.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 23, 4:30 pm

★ OUR KIND OF TRAITOR ★

United Kingdom, 2016, 107 min
Dir. Susanna White

Stranger Says: You know you're hankering for a little more John Le Carré, especially now that you've seen the finale of *The Night Manager*. Throw in a couple of the greatest actors currently drawing breath (Damian Lewis, Stellan Skarsgård) and one great movie star who deserves to be forgiven at long last for appearing in the *Star Wars* prequels

(Ewan McGregor, long may he run), and how can you really go wrong? (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Ewan McGregor and Naomie Harris star as a couple who find themselves as pawns in a game between the Russian Mafia and the British Secret Service in this gripping spy thriller based on the novel by bestselling author John Le Carré (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*).

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun May 29, 7:15 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May 30, 2:30 pm

OUR LITTLE SISTER

Japan, 2015, 126 min
Dir. Hirokazu Kore-eda

SIFF Says: Three tightly knit sisters travel to the Japanese countryside for their father's funeral and form a maternal bond with their shy teenage half-sister in this warmhearted family drama from Japan's Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Like Father, Like Son*).

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 6 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat May 21, 8:30 pm

OUR LOVED ONES

Canada (Québec), 2015, 102 min
Dir. Anne Émond

Stranger Says: *Our Loved Ones* expertly visualizes how invasive depression and its side effects can be. Depression essentially becomes a filter for the film and literally darkens the picture as it documents the Leblanc family's life in small-town Quebec. The film opens with the suicide of the patriarch of the Leblanc family, but the plot quickly re-centers on his son, David, who takes over his marionette-making business. *Our Loved Ones* is the Leblanc's family history and spans decades—David meeting his long-term girlfriend, the sudden birth of their daughter, Laurence, and David's struggles with fatherhood as his children grow up. This, all while peppering in glimpses of David's battle with mental health. Somehow though, the film isn't a downer. Director Anne Émond reveals the bursts of light through David's depressive fog and reminds us that life's balance is delicate, much like the strings of a marionette. (ANA SOFIA KNAUF)

SIFF Says: This vivid, hopeful, and rich family saga traces three generations of a Québécois family challenged by inherited mental

illness and long-kept secrets that are finally overcome by a father's heartfelt relationship with his spirited daughter.

PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 23, 4:30 pm

MAJESTIC BAY Tue May 24, 8:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sun May 29, 8 pm

OVARIAN PSYCOS

USA, 2016, 72 min
DOC Dir. Joanna Sokolowski,
Kate Trumbull-LaValle

SIFF Says: The Ovarian Psychos Cycle Brigade, a new generation of women of color in East Los Angeles, confront the violence in their lives, redefine identity, and build community by putting their feminist ideals in motion with raucous, irreverent activism.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 3, 9:30 pm

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sat June 4, 8 pm

THE PARADISE SUITE

Netherlands, 2015, 122 min
Dir. Joost van Ginkel

SIFF Says: Set in modern-day Amsterdam, this narrative mosaic follows the interwoven lives of six immigrants, whose homelands range from Africa to Bulgaria, as they search for a better life in a world that seems determined to exploit them.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 4 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon June 6, 9 pm

PARALYTIC

USA, 2016, 87 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Joey Johnson

SIFF Says: After being betrayed by a ruthless drug cartel, a high-end contract killer known as "The Ghost" plans to bring down their vast financial holdings, resulting in a mysterious puzzle that a small-town Washington sheriff must solve in order to stop untold horrors.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 9 pm

★ PATHS OF THE SOUL ★

China, 2015, 115 min
Dir. Zhang Yang

Stranger Says: A small village of Chinese Buddhists decide to travel the thousand-plus miles to Tibet's holy mountain. On foot. Through sleet and snow. Miraculously, their particular method of on-the-move kowtowing remains strange and wonderful to watch, even after the thousandth repetition. Absolutely hypnotic, and spiritual in a way that won't leave the viewer feeling ill-used afterward. A simple shot of tattered prayer banners flapping in the wind is somehow the most beautiful thing I've seen all festival. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Chinese auteur Zhang Yang follows a group of Tibetan villagers as they brave the elements, earthquakes, and indifferent truck drivers during their gripping 1,200-mile "bowing pilgrimage" to the holy city of Lhasa.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Thu May 26, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 4 pm

THE PATRIARCH

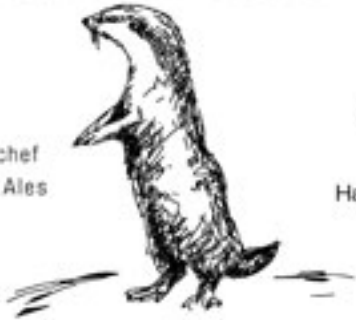
New Zealand, 2016, 102 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Lee Tamahori

SIFF Says: Director Lee Tamahori returns to the Maori culture of *Once Were Warriors* for a family saga about an outspoken teen who dares to challenge his elders.

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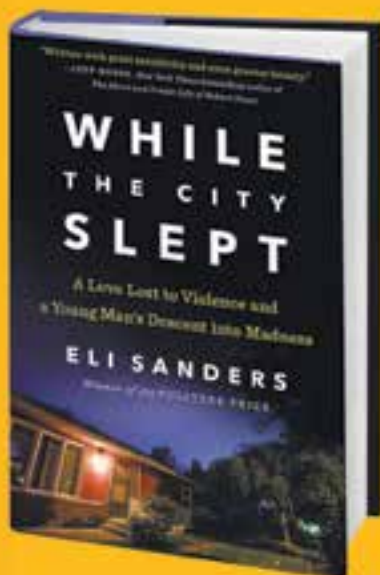
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EliSanders.net

P-Q

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW



Based on a novel by Witi Ihimaera, the author of *Whale Rider*.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 21, 1:30 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sat May 28, 6 pm

PAUL À QUÉBEC

Canada (Québec), 2015, 98 min

U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. François Bouvier

SIFF Says: Michel Rabagliati's celebrated graphic novel *The Song of Roland* comes to life in this charming, wryly funny, and uplifting tale of a graphic designer and his relationship with his dying father-in-law.

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Thu June 2, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 4, 11 am

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 5 pm

THE PEOPLE VS. FRITZ BAUER

Germany, 2015, 105 min

Dir. Lars Kraume

Stranger Says: Germany, 1957: An aging Jewish Nazi-hunter receives a hot tip on the current whereabouts of Adolf Eichmann. As he draws closer to his target, he begins to encounter dangerous levels of interference from some initially unlikely sources. The rumpled, nicotine-hoovering persnickety protagonist, but the movie surrounding him never really hits its stride, settling into a listless so-then-this-happened pace. Interesting mainly for the facts, not the telling. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: A riveting historical thriller in which a tenacious Jewish lawyer returns from his self-imposed exile in the aftermath of WWII, risking everything as he carefully organizes the prosecution of Germany's greatest war criminals.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu May 26, 7 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sat May 28, 8:30 pm

PHANTOM BOY

France, 2015, 84 min

Dir. Jean-Loup Felicioli, Alain Gagnol

SIFF Says: The Academy Award®-nominated makers of *A Cat in Paris* introduce a new animated superhero: an 11-year-old boy who can leave his body as a ghostly apparition and helps a wheelchair-bound cop save New York City from a sinister mob kingpin.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 30, 11 am

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 6:30 pm

THE PISTOL SHRIMPS

DOC Canada, 2016, 75 min

Dir. Brent Hodge

Stranger Says: This comedic documentary zooms in and out of

the lives of the women on a rec league basketball team named the Pistol Shrimps. Set in LA, the film features actress Aubrey Plaza, but it gives equal time to its other players—who all have various responsibilities from which basketball is a reprieve. Interviews, clips of team bonding, and fake SportsCenter footage intertwine to capture a dryly hilarious sense of friendship while poking fun at conventional tropes in men's sports coverage. Bonus points go to the film's gorgeous little gem of a soundtrack and its contemplation of loneliness (in LA and in life). (JESSICA FU)

SIFF Says: In Los Angeles, the female basketball team Pistol Shrimps—including actress Aubrey Plaza and founder Maria Blasucci (*Drunk History*)—come together for weekly matches filled with trash-talking, hard-fouling, wisecracking action.

PACIFIC PLACE Wed June 1, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 4:30 pm

★ PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW ★

DOC Israel, 2015, 80 min

Dir. Ido Haar

DON'T MISS! **Stranger Says:** This documentary must be seen with two others in this festival, *Sonita* and *Marzia, My Friend*. These documentaries (which concerns young and poor women who live with very difficult pasts and are trying to take control of their futures) are connected in ways that deserve careful examination and deep discussion. In *Presenting Princess Shaw*, a young Black American woman, Princess, who lives on her own in New Orleans, has a very challenging job, and, for spiritual relief, sings her own songs on YouTube, and is discovered by a musician who lives on a kibbutz in Israel. The musician, Kutiman, brilliantly mixes/loops/chops Princess's YouTube clip into a dreamy tune that becomes an internet hit. This is not a rags-to-riches story but rags to that one moment in your life that redeems all the other ones, all the pain. Those who can remember Hirokazu Koreeda's 1998 masterpiece *After Life* will get my meaning. This is the moment that becomes eternal. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: An inspirational true-life fairy tale about a talented Black woman from a poor New Orleans neighborhood whose a cappella YouTube performances capture the attention of an Israeli music producer, turning her into an international singing sensation.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri May 20, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 21, 1 pm

THE PRETTY ONES

DOC Argentina, 2016, 77 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Melisa Liebenthal

Stranger Says: About 10 years ago, eight or so women had a party in my small apartment in the Central District. I don't know how things ended up that way, but there they were and there I was (the only man in the room). And soon my guests began talking as if I wasn't there. It became a room of women only, and they talked not so much about women stuff but very frankly about sex, men, and their bodies. Watching this Argentinean documentary, *The Pretty Ones*, was much like being in that party of women. In it, a group of young women talk very plainly, very honestly about men, their own bodies, their sexuality in ways that are interesting and sometimes not so interesting. But the best thing about this film is the light of Argentina. It is a beautiful and almost soulful light that fills the rooms and falls on the faces of the young women. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: 24-year-old filmmaker Melisa Liebenthal gathers her friends to reflect on modern societal pressures concerning beauty, friendship, and their uncomfortable relationships with their appearance and sexuality—especially in the age of selfies and social media.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 6 pm

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sat June 4, 3 pm

THE PRINCE SING-ALONG

100 min

SIFF Says: In tribute to the life and musical legacy of His Purple Highness, join us for a very special sing-along featuring the best of Prince, as well as some surprise cameos from his proteges and musical allies. Prince's music and groundbreaking visual style transformed the culture, and his iconic music videos presented the best of both worlds. Whether crooning about his Dirty Mind in bikini bottoms and a trenchcoat, slowly emerging from the bathtub while contemplating crying doves, showing us how to party like the world is about to end, or praising the virtues of Batman, he was an artist who knew how to deliver the goods! Sing along, celebrate Prince, and don't ever let the elevator bring you down!

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun May 29, 11:59 pm

★ THE QUEEN OF IRELAND ★

DOC Ireland, 2015, 82 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Conor Horgan

Stranger Says: A single speech rocketed Barack Obama to na-

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

tional prominence—his keynote address before the 2004 Democratic National Convention—and that speech would ultimately lead to Obama becoming the first African American president of the United States. A single speech brought the drag queen Panti Bliss to national prominence—her speech at the Abbey Theater—and that speech would ultimately lead to Bliss, aka Rory O'Neill, becoming the first Irish queen of Ireland in who knows how many centuries. (Wiki knows, of course, but I'm not going to look it up.) *The Queen of Ireland* is a documentary film about an unlikely political force—an outrageous drag queen and outspoken queer-rights activist who Ireland's professional homophobes made the mistake of trying to silence, a move that backfired spectacularly. This film tells the story of O'Neill's life, from his childhood in rural Ireland to his years as a drag performer in Japan, to the bar he runs in Dublin and, ultimately, to his confrontation with Ireland's bigots and his rise, by virtue of his eloquence, first to national prominence, then to political powerhouse, and ultimately to national treasure—all in the space of a few years. If RuPaul, Evan Wolfson, Ellen, and Neil Patrick Harris were the same person, they'd be Rory O'Neill. A fascinating film about a fascinating queen. (DAN SAVAGE)

SIFF Says: Outrageously entertaining drag queen Panti Bliss became an accidental activist after her comments about homophobia in Ireland, dubbed Pantigate, led to international attention that helped pave the way for Ireland's historic referendum on gay marriage.

PACIFIC PLACE Thu June 2, 7 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 12:30 pm

RADIO DREAMS

Iran, 2016, 97 min
Dir. Babak Jalali

SIFF Says: Babak Jalali's wry comedy, inspired by the films of Aki Kaurismäki, depicts the Iranian immigrant experience as reflected through a scrappy Persian-language radio station in San Francisco, where Afghanistan's first rock band, Kabul Dreams, hopes to jam with the legendary Metallica.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat May 21, 6 pm
MAJESTIC BAY Sun May 22, 6 pm

★ RAINBOW ★

India, 2015, 104 min
Dir. Nagesh Kukunoor

Stranger Says: Chotu and Pari are an orphaned brother and sister living with their stingy aunt and lazy uncle in the rural desert of Rajasthan, India. Chotu is blind, and his sister helps him move through the world. The duo embarks on a journey to find a Bollywood actor who they think can help Chotu regain his eyesight. On the way, they meet the breadth of humanity: truck drivers, mystics, hippie adventurers, villains, feminist bandits, and peculiar folks. The film is delightful, with lots of bright colors, good music, and neat camels. The kids aren't too precious, and the story is sweetly entertaining but not overly cheesy. (GILLIAN ANDERSON)
SIFF Says: A sweet fairy tale about an unwaveringly optimistic 10-year-old girl and her blind younger brother as they travel across the Indian desert hoping to meet Shah Rukh Khan, a famous and charitable Bollywood star.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Mon May 30, 1 pm
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER
Sat June 4, 1 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 11:30 am

RAINBOW TIME

USA, 2016, 91 min
Dir. Linas Phillips

Stranger Says: I wanted to love this movie, because Linas Phillips's first two movies, *Walking to Werner* and *Bass Ackwards*, are brilliant. But I didn't love *Rainbow Time*—and not because of the eyebrow-raising decision on Phillips's part to play a mentally challenged character. It just so happens that particular risk paid off: His character is sympathetic, complex, and convincing. But that could not be said about any of the other characters in *Rainbow Time*. The sexual knot at the center of the story (involving two brothers, one of their kinks, and one of their girlfriends) feels so untrue, it's hard to care about its ramifications. And Lauren Weedman and Jay Duplass are frustratingly underused. (CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE)
SIFF Says: This provocative yet endearing comedy, produced by the Duplass brothers, introduces Shonzi (Linas Phillips), a developmentally disabled 40-year-old virgin obsessed with The Fonz, filmmaking, and getting laid, who may derail his brother's new relationship.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 9:15 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 2:30 pm

RARA

Chile, 2016, 92 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Pepa San Martín

SIFF Says: A young girl on the cusp of adolescence has her home life thrown into upheaval when her father, dismayed that his daughters are being raised by a lesbian couple, seeks to regain custody.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 6:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 3:30 pm

★ RED GRINGO ★

DOC Chile, 2016, 67 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Miguel Ángel Vidaurre

Stranger Says: Equipped with excellent bone structure and a serviceable voice, Dean Reed was an aspiring American romantic balladeer whose career was stagnating in the late 1950s and early '60s. But once the slick crooner moved to Chile, he scored many hits, coming off like a cross between Neil Diamond and radical-lefty folkie Phil Ochs. Red Gringo recounts Reed's transformation from teen idol to political activist, crosscutting among a jumbled mélange of concert footage, newsreel clips, and interviews. Reed found purpose for his life and art fighting for social progress for the proletariat, but died in East Berlin in 1986 under mysterious circumstances. (DAVE SEGAL)
SIFF Says: After signing with Capitol Records in the early 1960's, Colorado-born singer Dean Reed found success at home elusive, but became a pop sensation in Latin America. While touring Chile, he underwent a surprising political transformation that earned him the nickname "The Red Elvis."

PACIFIC PLACE Thu June 9, 7 pm
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Sat June 11, 6 pm

R-S

★ RESILIENCE ★

DOC USA, 2016, 60 min
Dir. James Redford



Stranger Says: When you were a kid, did your parents fight? Did you move a lot? Did your parents hit you? Did they hit each other? It's taken science a long time to catch up, but doctors have recently discovered that the answers to questions like these play an enormous role in a person's risk for disease later in life—or even early death. The more kids are subjected to toxic stress, life events that constantly trigger their fight or flight responses, the more that toxic stress will directly impact the structure of a child's growing brain. Our culture spends billions of dollars a year treating addiction and cardiovascular disease, but what would happen if we shifted to focus on preventing it in the first place by making sure our kids feel safe? This documentary explores that question, and it's one we should all be asking. (SYDNEY BROWN-STONE)

SIFF Says: Documentarian James Redford travels to San Francisco, New Haven, and Washington state as he continues to explore the cutting-edge research behind Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), the focus of his SIFF 2015 film *Paper Tigers*.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 3 pm
MAJESTIC BAY Sun May 22, 1 pm

THE REVOLUTION WON'T BE TELEvised

DOC Senegal, 2016, 110 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Rama Thiaw

SIFF Says: In a campaign to unseat president Abdoulaye Wade, three young Senegalese rappers began a protest movement called "We Are Fed Up," taking their message across Dakar to spread a message of freedom and emphasizing the importance of voting through their rap music.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 6 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 3:30 pm

ROSITA

Denmark, 2015, 95 min
Dir. Frederikke Aspöck

SIFF Says: When a Danish widower arranges for a mail-order bride from the Philippines to be his fiancée, he ropes his reluctant son in to act as translator and accidentally creates a fraught love triangle that threatens to break the family apart.

MAJESTIC BAY Sat May 21, 9:30 pm
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Tue May 24, 6:30 pm
PACIFIC PLACE Wed June 1, 4:30 pm

SAM CHOY'S POKE TO THE MAX

DOC USA, 2016, 40 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Terrence Jeffrey Santos

Stranger Says: The first few minutes of this short film feel like a tribute video to Hawaiian chef Sam Choy—the kind with glowing reminiscences by friends and family that's watched at an uncle's 60th birthday party. The film does contain a few excellent moments exploring native Hawaiian ingredients and cuisine, as well as the multicultural effects foreign-owned plantations and migrant Asian workers had on Hawaiian culture. Sadly, though, it never rises above being a promotional video for the restaurant and food truck owned

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SATURDAY 6/11

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THURSDAY 6/23

KING KHAN
& THE SHRINES

SUNDAY 6/26

BENJAMIN CLEMENTINE

FRIDAY 7/1

ELECTRIC SIX
IN THE WHALE

SATURDAY 7/9

DEERHOOF

SKATING POLLY + SCARVES

TUESDAY 7/12

WYE OAK

SATURDAY 8/13

WHITE LUNG

BARBOZA

COMING UP NEXT

SATURDAY 6/4

TED LEO

CHRIS BROKAW

WEDNESDAY 6/15

WEEED

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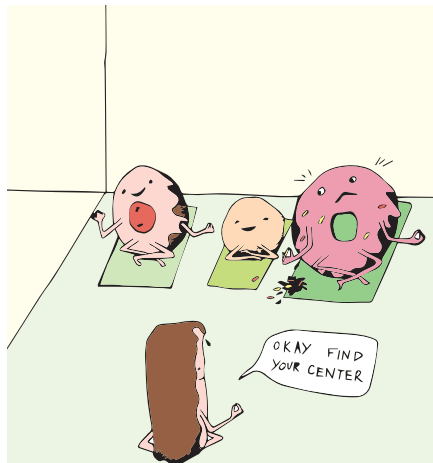
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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

S



SONITA

by Choy and his business partners. (ANGELA GARBES) **SIFF Says:** Poké is a Hawaiian fish dish known around the world thanks to the “Godfather of Poké,” Food Network chef Sam Choy, who was born to a family of cooks and turned his passion into a craze that is about to take over Seattle with a wave of food trucks.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sat June 4, 1 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 5:30 pm

SAND STORM

Israel, 2016, 87 min

Dir. Elite Zexer

SIFF Says: Two Bedouin women, a teenager and her mother, dare to defy polygamist marital traditions in southern Israel. Winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 3, 11 am
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 8, 9:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER
Thu June 9, 8:30 pm

★ A SCANDAL IN PARIS ★

United Kingdom, 1946, 100 min

Dir. Douglas Sirk

Stranger Says: Though Douglas Sirk will always be best known for his melodramatic molasses movies, this obscure diamond highlights the stylish wit that bolstered his campier tendencies. It doesn't hurt that George Sanders, the drollest actor who ever cocked an eyebrow, is the star. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: This rarely seen period piece from Douglas Sirk, loaded with witty dialogue, sparkling set pieces, and a charming monkey named Satan, stars George Sanders as an 18th-century French con man who goes from stealing women's garters to becoming Paris' chief of police.

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 22, 1:30 pm

THE SCENT OF MANDARIN

France, 2015, 110 min

Dir. Gilles Legrand

SIFF Says: A classical and sumptuous love story of two broken souls, a widowed home-care nurse and a wounded cavalry officer, who begin an unlikely affair in final days of the Great War.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 10, 7 pm
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER
Sat June 11, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun June 12, 4:30 pm

SEARCHDOG

USA, 2016, 88 min

Dir. Mary Healey Jamiel

SIFF Says: Humans and canines work together to accomplish heroic acts in this doggie documentary, which follows an internationally renowned K9 Search and Rescue Specialist as he turns the “unadoptable” into next generation of search dogs.

PACIFIC PLACE Sat May 28, 11 am
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 29, 6 pm

SEASONS

France, 2015, 95 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud

SIFF Says: From Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud, the Oscar®-nominated creators of *Winged Migration* and *Oceans*, comes a history of Europe told through the paws, claws, and hooves of the animals that inhabit the continent.

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 29, 11 am
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Tue May 31, 7 pm

THE SEASONS IN QUINCY: FOUR PORTRAITS OF JOHN BERGER

United Kingdom, 2016, 89 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Dir. Colin MacCabe, Tilda Swinton,

Christopher Roth, Bartek Dziadosz

SIFF Says: This anthology of short films, including one directed by Oscar®-winning actress Tilda Swinton, examine the life and work of British painter and art critic John Berger, who abandoned his metropolitan artistic life to become a farmer.

SIFF FILM CENTER Fri May 27, 7 pm
SIFF FILM CENTER Sat May 28, 7 pm

SEED:

THE UNTOLD STORY

USA, 2016, 94 min

Dir. Jon Betz, Taggart Siegel

Stranger Says: This is a propaganda film. It is a very well-done propaganda film, but it is propaganda nonetheless. If you're looking for a documentary on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or organic farming, you won't find it here. While the filmmakers do point out the very real and deeply disturbing practices of agrochemical giants like Monsanto, they also skim breathlessly over the much broader science of genetic modification and insist instead that no kind of genetic modification is “natural,” as if that word actually held meaning. The film shines when it highlights the ancient farming practices of peoples like the Ojibwe and Hopi, when it explores the care and cosmology of what it means to be a steward of seeds. It shines when it looks at the environmental-justice issues stemming from the production of genetically modified food. There are plenty of fantastic scientists and farmers interviewed in this film, but unless you're willing to swallow all of the film's teachings whole, you might struggle with some of what it accepts for truth. (SYDNEY BROWNSTONE)

SIFF Says: In the last century, a staggering 94% of Earth's seed varieties have disappeared, but a group of farmers, scientists, and indigenous seed stewards are

waging a David and Goliath battle against the biotech industry to protect the diversity of our agricultural heritage.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat May 21, 3:15 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 2:30 pm

SLASH

USA, 2016, 101 min

Dir. Clay Liford

SIFF Says: Sexually questioning high-school freshman Neil (Michael Johnston, *Teen Wolf*) discovers a new creative outlet when his new friend Julia (Hannah Marks, *Awkward.*) takes him down the rabbit hole of online erotic fan fiction.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 4 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 8:30 pm

SLEEPING GIANT

Canada, 2015, 90 min

Dir. Andrew Cividino

SIFF Says: A cast of talented young newcomers star as three young boys—sheltered city kid Adam and wild cousins Nate and Riley—who spend summer vacation on the shores of Lake Superior testing their limits with rebellious acts of stolen liquor, cliff-jumping, and infighting.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Mon May 30, 3:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Tue May 31, 7 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Thu June 2, 4:30 pm

A SONG FOR YOU: THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS STORY

USA, 2016, 96 min

Dir. Keith Maitland

Stranger Says: Though the subject matter is important and lovingly explored, the movie isn't much. It's nice to see Thao Nguyen and her band featured so prominently (all the archival footage, from Leonard Cohen to Radiohead, from Willie to Wilco, is solid gold), there's not much here that wouldn't be improved by just watching some *ACL* episodes. (SEAN NELSON)

SIFF Says: Take a sweet-sounding peek behind the music of the PBS series *Austin City Limits*, the longest-running music show in television history, which has featured many of the greatest musicians of our time—from Willie Nelson to Radiohead, Ray Charles to Alabama Shakes.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 9 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 4, 3 pm

★ SONITA ★

Iran, 2015, 90 min

Dir. Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami

Stranger Says: This documentary must be seen with two others in this festival, *Presenting Princess Shaw* and

DON'T MISS!

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES

Marzia, My Friend. These documentaries (which concern young and poor women who live with very difficult pasts and are trying to take control of their futures) are connected in ways that deserve careful examination and deep discussion. In *Sonita*, a young Afghan female rapper dreams of becoming famous like Nicki Minaj, of having lots of screaming fans, and of not being forced to marry some old man for money. She lives in Tehran, Iran, and most of her family still lives in war-torn Afghanistan. During a session of drama therapy, we learn how her father and brother were killed right in front of her and her mother. Rapping is all she has got. And when she gets one chance to make a song and a video, she becomes an internet hit. This music video, which is at the center of the documentary, is one of the best I have ever seen in my life. (CHARLES MUDEDE)
SIFF Says: Winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, *Sonita* is a feisty teenage refugee and aspiring rapper from Afghanistan who, after her mother announces an arranged marriage, upends the foundations of documentary filmmaking with a bold request to her filmmaker: Will you buy me?
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 6:30 pm
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Sat May 28, 1 pm
SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sat June 4, 3:30 pm

THE SOUND OF TREES

Canada (Québec), 2015, 78 min
U.S. PREMIERE
 Dir. François Péloquin

SIFF Says: A raw, poignant, finely detailed portrait of a Quebecois teenager who, over one long summer, will do anything—drugs, girls, theft—to escape his bucolic life and evade his fate to inherit his father's sawmill.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 3:30 pm

★ SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU ★

USA, 2016, 80 min
 Dir. Richard Tanne

Stranger Says: Thank you, director Richard Tanne, for releasing this presidential rom-com in the midst of one of the ugliest election seasons in recent memory. The film follows a young, chain-smoking Barack Obama (Parker Sawyers) and a deeply principled Michelle Robinson (Tika Sumpter) as they traverse Chicago's South Side on their first "date." The tension throughout is that it's not really a date, at least not until Michelle says it is. She's Barack's adviser at the law firm where he's working for the summer, and as she explains early on in the film, she has to work doubly hard to be taken seriously because she's a woman, then thrice as hard because she's black. What would happen to her credibility if she fell for the first cute black guy who walked through the firm's doors? A relentlessly charming Barack pursues her anyway, but Michelle calls him on his ignorance and puts him in his place. It may be difficult for viewers to believe that the real Barack and Michelle spent so much of their first date outlining their childhoods, their experiences with structural oppression, and their theories of change, but who cares? This is a sweet and schmaltzy film, and one

that celebrates the mythic figures of Barack and Michelle Obama. Conveniently, the film takes place in a time before the Obama legacy became complicated by massive deportations and overseas drone wars, but... well, there's nothing that ought to be said after that. (SYDNEY BROWNSTONE)
SIFF Says: Spend a disarmingly romantic 1989 summer afternoon with the future president of the United States, Barack Obama, as he woos his future First Lady on an epic first date across Chicago's South Side in a real-life version of *Before Sunrise*.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun June 12, 7 pm

SPA NIGHT

USA, 2016, 93 min
 Dir. Andrew Ahn

SIFF Says: A young Korean-American (Joe Seo, in a Sundance-winning breakthrough performance) discovers his burgeoning sexual desires amid the steamy underground world of gay hookups when he takes a job at a spa in Los Angeles' Koreatown.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Thu June 2, 9:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 3, 7 pm

★ SPARROWS ★

Iceland, 2015, 99 min
 Dir. Rúnar Rúnarsson

Stranger Says: *Sparrows*, set in the dramatic, watery gray landscape of West Iceland, moves at a sluggish, almost somnambulant, pace. The film's speed seems to be at odds with the topic it explores—masculinity, specifically as seen through the relationship between a quiet teenager named Ari and his estranged, alcoholic father. But what director Rúnar Rúnarsson really demonstrates—quietly, insistently, effectively—is the slow, insidious ways traditional notions of masculinity threaten to destroy all of us. (ANGELA GARBES)

SIFF Says: The second feature from director Rúnar Rúnarsson (*Volcano*, SIFF 2012) follows the travails of 16-year-old Ari, who must grow up quickly when he is sent to the remote, working-class Westfjords to live with his dead-beat father.

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 29, 9:15 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 4 pm

SPY TIME

Spain, 2015, 93 min
 Dir. Javier Ruiz Caldera

SIFF Says: In this rollicking sendup of 1960s spy films, sad-sack Adolfo is targeted by a group of thugs, leading him to discover that his sausage-maker father is actually a brilliant secret agent. Adapted from the classic Spanish comic strip by Manuel Vázquez Gallego.

MAJESTIC BAY Thu May 26, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 7 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Thu June 9, 6 pm

STRANGER

Kazakhstan, 2015, 105 min
U.S. PREMIERE
 Dir. Yermek Tursunov

SIFF Says: Yermek Tursunov (*Kelin*, *The Old Man*) completes his trilogy about Kazakh identity, in which an orphaned young boy takes to the mountains and lives among a pack of wolves in the days before WWII.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Mon May

30, 9 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sat June 4, 9:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Sun June 12, 4 pm

SUMMER OF '92

Denmark, 2016, 90 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
 Dir. Kasper Barfoed

SIFF Says: The Danish national football team, a group of ragtag underdogs already knocked out in 1992 UEFA Euro playoffs, must pull themselves together in only a week when another country forfeits their spot in this *Full Monty* for footballers.

PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 30, 3:30 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sat June 4, 1 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 8 pm

SUMMERTIME

France, 2015, 105 min
 Dir. Catherine Corsini

SIFF Says: A luminous lesbian romance begins in 1971 France when a young farm girl moves to Paris and becomes smitten with a charismatic radical feminist, only to discover that their love is not as easy, nor as accepted, when they return to the countryside.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 28, 1:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Wed June 1, 7 pm

★ SUNSET SONG ★

United Kingdom, 2015, 135 min
 Dir. Terence Davies



Stranger Says: After making his name with semi-autobiographical tales of provincial life in post-war Britain, Liverpool-born auteur Terence Davies shifted his gaze to literary properties about strong-willed women living in impossible times, like Lily Bart in *The House of Mirth*. That description fits Agyness Deyn's Chris Guthrie, the heroine of Lewis Grassie Gibbon's 1932 novel, a farm girl in World War I-era Scotland who longs to teach rather than to become a broodmare like her mother. Her father is a brute and war is hell, but the land sustains her like no man can, resulting in Davies's most hopeful film to date. (KATHY FENNESSY)

SIFF Says: Epic, emotional, and filled with both captivating period detail and painterly visual landscapes, the latest from director Terence Davies (*The House of Mirth*) looks back at the life of a peasant farm family's life in pre-WWI Scotland.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri May 20, 4 pm

MAJESTIC BAY Sat May 21, 6:30 pm

SUSTAINABLE

DOC USA, 2016, 96 min
WORLD PREMIERE
 Dir. Matt Wechsler

Stranger Says: If it was stripped of the white, male talking heads that seem to pop up in almost every mainstream environmental movie, *Sustainable* would be a documentary about an Illinois farm that's leading its local organic movement. The owners of Spence Farm eventually connect with restaurateurs in Chicago and create a wider network of rural farmers supplying urban gourmands with heirloom items—a deeply inspiring thing. But that's where the interesting part of the film begins and where it ends; the rest feels like a long, preachy infomercial that we've all seen before. (SYDNEY BROWNSTONE)
SIFF Says: A vital investigation of the economic and environmental instability of America's food system, from the multiple crises we are fac-

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PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 22, 6:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER

Fri June 10, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 12:30 pm

★ TAG ★

Japan, 2015, 85 min

Dir. Sion Sono

Stranger Says: A Japanese schoolgirl's no good, very bad day includes bouts of body swapping, waves of heavily armed teachers, and a marriage proposal from a rather well-dressed man-pig. (There's also some weird stuff.) The very first scene of this fairly indescribable sci-fi/horror hybrid features a splattery sight gag that should by all rights be impossible to top. Damned if director Sion Sono doesn't try, though, launching a constant stream of absurdist, skeezy, and occasionally even poetic vignettes. Ideal late night viewing, really. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: Gonzo Japanese director Sion Sono's latest starts when a busload of schoolgirls suffer a gruesome, darkly comic demise, sending the sole survivor into a nightmarish world of lake monsters, murderous wind, bloody weddings, and back-flipping pig men.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri May 27, 11:59 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Thu June 2, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue June 7, 9:30 pm

TANNA

Australia, 2015, 99 min

Dir. Martin Butler, Bentley Dean

Stranger Says: Tanna, the first feature film shot in Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation composed of 83 or so islands (and a very popular tax haven), tells a timeworn story of two lovers divided by other people's meddling. Protagonist Wawa is set to be gifted to a neighboring tribe, but is in love with someone else already. The story plays out with some subtlety (quick glances in each other's directions, smiles caught by onlookers) and nuance—could Wawa's disobedience jeopardize the tribe's safety? The story is set on a gorgeous island, where the drama unfolds in front of a backdrop of forests, bubbling volcanoes, and foamy waves. (JESSICA FU)

SIFF Says: In this lush, visually breathtaking film, the first shot entirely on the island nation of Vanuatu, rebellious Wawa must choose between loyalty to her clan and her own heart when she is betrothed to a man from another tribe.

PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 20, 1:30 pm
MAJESTIC BAY Mon May 23, 8:30 pm

THE TENTH MAN

Argentina, 2016, 80 min

Dir. Daniel Burman

Stranger Says: I was sad when this movie left New York City (in its first five minutes) and arrived in Argentina. There's really not much in the Argentine section that's at all interesting, nothing to keep your eyes going. Even the cinematography is flat. How can a movie set in Argentina, a country with beautiful light, be so plain, so lacking in magic? Indeed, the film is not even bad. It's just there in much the same way a stone is there. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: A genial and light-hearted affair, in which a New York-based Jewish-Argentinian man returns to the Once district

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



of Buenos Aires for Purim, reconnecting with his father, his faith, his native community, and his heart.

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Fri May 27, 7 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 2:30 pm

THERAPY FOR A VAMPIRE

Austria, 2014, 87 min

Dir. David Ruehm

Stranger Says: Avid fans of vampire mythology and comedy/horror will love *Therapy for a Vampire*. Everyone else should be a few drinks deep, and prepare for a series of audience eye rolls and halfhearted chuckles. "Has your wife considered why she can't see herself in a mirror?" asks a boring caricature of Freud. "She hasn't reflected on it," the vampire husband responds. The silly campiness screams: "But it's supposed to be dumb!" Overall, it comes across more as a failed thriller than a successful comedy/horror film, and every wink-wink moment provoked in me a long, sighing cringe. (JULIA RABAN)

SIFF Says: One night Sigmund Freud discovers a new patient on his couch, a mysterious count who has entered therapy because he can no longer bear his "eternally long" relationship with his wife, in this humorous mashup of vampire legend and neurotic obsessions.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri May 27, 7 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Tue May 31, 7 pm

THEY CALL ME JEEG ROBOT

Italy, 2015, 112 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Gabriele Mainetti

SIFF Says: This Italian superhero movie is no glossy Marvel blockbuster, but instead explores the grittiness of the organized crime world, this generation's obsession with celebrity, and the responsibility that comes with privilege.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Fri May 27, 9:45 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 9, 9 pm

THITHI

India, 2015, 120 min

Dir. Raam Reddy

SIFF Says: In this darkly comic gem, three generations of men—a cheap cigarette-smoking old curmudgeon, his materialistic, duplicitous son, and a cocky lothario teen—converge at the "thithi" (a traditional funeral celebration) of their 101-year-old elder.

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Fri June 3, 8:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun June 5, 7 pm

TICKLED

DOC New Zealand, 2016, 92 min
Dir. David Farrier, Dylan Reeve

SIFF Says: Male-on-male competitive endurance tickling

competitions may sound like harmless fun, but a much darker truth is revealed when a documentary filmmaker uncovers the predatory tactics of an exploitative figurehead behind the bizarre yet surprisingly profitable viral videos.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat May 21, 4 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 9 pm

TINY: THE LIFE OF ERIN BLACKWELL

DOC USA, 2016, 86 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Dir. Martin Bell

SIFF Says: In the follow-up to *Streetwise*, the 1984 Academy Award-nominated film about Seattle's homeless youth, director Martin Bell and photographer Mary Ellen Mark revisit the film's main character, Tiny, now a struggling mother with a brood of 10.

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 29, 4 pm
PACIFIC PLACE Mon May 30, 11 am

TIPPING POINT

2016, 89 min

SIFF Says: An impacting collection of shorts that will engage you with their deep emotional insight as they explore critical historical events and powerful cultural stories.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 28, 3:30 pm

TOWER

DOC USA, 2016, 96 min

Dir. Keith Maitland

SIFF Says: Winner of the Grand Jury and Audience Award at SXSW, this suspenseful documentary shrewdly animates several eyewitness accounts to provide a moment-by-moment chronicle of the 1966 massacre at the University of Texas, America's first mass school shooting.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 6:30 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Fri June 3, 4 pm

TRANSPECOS

USA, 2016, 87 min

Dir. Greg Kwedar

SIFF Says: Three United States Border Patrol agents working a remote desert checkpoint find themselves in a nail-biting situation and at odds with one another when a routine vehicle inspection reveals an insidious plot within their ranks.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Wed June 1, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 9:45 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 5, 3 pm

A TRIBUTE TO VIGGO MORTENSEN

90 min

SIFF Says: An actor, painter, and poet, Viggo Mortensen's combination of rugged exterior and reflective interior have infused his wide range of film roles with equal parts gravitas and compassion—from criminals to cowboys, lovers

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



WAREHOUSED



to lieutenants, post-apocalyptic survivors to sagacious psychoanalysts, and the rightful king of Gondor.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 11, 1:30 pm

TRIVISA

Hong Kong, 2016, 97 min
Dir. Frank Hui, Jevons Au, Vicky Wong

SIFF Says: A trio of directors helmed this noir about three notorious Chinese criminals who cross over into Hong Kong to make their fortune in the days leading up to the 1997 British handover of the territory. Produced by master filmmaker Johnnie To (*Drug War*).

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Sat June 4, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun June 5, 9:45 pm

★ TRUMAN ★

Spain, 2015, 108 min
Dir. Cesc Gay

Stranger Says: All I need to say about this softly sad comedy that is set in the capital of the Spanish-speaking world, Madrid, and concerns two middle-aged friends (one of whom, played by the great Argentinian actor Ricardo Darin, is dying of cancer), and the dying man's dog, named Truman, is that it has a really funny and even satisfying ending. It caught me by surprise. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: A wise and tender ode to friendship, of man and dog, two middle-aged men reunite in Madrid and spend four days taking unexpected detours, reflecting on loves, losses, triumphs, and regrets. Winner of five Goya Awards including Best Picture.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun May 29, 4:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 30, 6:30 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Fri June 3, 9 pm

TSUKIJI WONDERLAND

DOC Japan, 2016, 110 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Naotaro Endo

SIFF Says: Spend a day at Tokyo's Tsukiji Market, the biggest wholesale seafood market in the world, for a fascinating out-in-the-open view of the seafood business during the ramshackle 80-year-old complex's last year of operation.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 6 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Thu June 2, 6:30 pm

★ UNCLE HOWARD ★

DOC USA, 2016, 96 min
Dir. Aaron Brookner

Stranger Says: A grainy, handheld elegy to a great documentarian and a promising filmmaker, Howard Brookner, that makes you jealous of the artistic beehive of the Chelsea Hotel and hate the US's official response to

the AIDS crisis. Rare footage of the gay dudes in the New York art/lit scenes (Burroughs, Ginsburg, Warhol) plus old stills of a young Spike Lee, and that whole late '80s crew make this one a must-see. The shots of Jim Jarmusch as poof-headed AD behind the the clapper of Brookner's films are amazing, too, as is everything he has to say in the doc. Unclear transitions between the past and the present make you feel like you're an eye on the wall in those scenes, which satisfies. (RICH SMITH)

SIFF Says: The nephew of filmmaker Howard Brookner, whose work captured the creative culture of '70s and '80s New York City, sets out to find the lost negative of a film on William S. Burroughs, uncovering his uncle's influence on a generation of artists along the way.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Wed May 25, 9:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 3 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Wed June 1, 6:30 pm

UNDER THE SHADOW

United Kingdom, 2016, 84 min
Dir. Babak Anvari

SIFF Says: Set in Tehran during the Iran/Iraq war of the 1980s, a woman, trapped in her apartment during the bombing and chaos, worries that malevolent spirits have taken possession of her daughter, leading to a bone-chilling horror tale of paranormal and real-life terrors.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Fri June 3, 11:59 pm

PACIFIC PLACE Wed June 8, 9:30 pm

UNDER THE SUN

DOC Russia, 2015, 106 min
Dir. Vitaly Mansky

SIFF Says: Despite continuous interference by government handlers, who are frequently captured on camera though they prefer to remain unseen, director Vitaly Mansky documents life in North Korea's capital of Pyongyang, and one family's training to be ideal patriots.

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Mon May 30, 1 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed June 1, 9:15 pm

UP FOR LOVE

France, 2016, 98 min
Dir. Laurent Tirard

SIFF Says: Jean Dujardin (*The Artist*) stars as an charming architect who charms a single lawyer over the phone into meeting for a first date, which takes an unexpected twist when it is revealed that he is only 4'6" tall, in this comedic French romance of mismatched coupling.

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER
Fri June 10, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sat June 11, 6:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 12 pm

★ VANITY ★

Switzerland, 2015, 75 min
Dir. Lionel Baier

Stranger Says: A cancer patient's plan to peacefully end it all at a remote Swiss motel hits a snag when he attracts the attention of the Russian male prostitute in the next room. The story may struggle a bit to fill out even its brief running time, but the performers see it through, particularly Almodovar veteran Carmen Maura, who is just wonderful as an over-the-head hospice worker. Slight but ultimately rewarding, with a welcome sense of absurdist humor that keeps jabbing through at odd angles. (ANDREW WRIGHT)

SIFF Says: "Euthanasia comedy" seems an odd descriptor, but the latest from Swiss director Lionel Baier (*Longwave*, SIFF 2014) is a blackly humorous Christmas tale about one man's absurd journey to die with dignity.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu May 26, 4:30 pm

SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Wed June 1, 7 pm

VINTAGE TOMORROWS

DOC USA, 2015, 67 min
Dir. Byrd McDonald

Stranger Says: If you're steam-curious or full-on steampunk, then *Vintage Tomorrows* was made for you. The documentary provides a nice survey of the movement best known for gear prints and top hats. At its best, steampunk can reclaim the past for those whom history has abused, but it can also glorify colonialism as it gazes into yesteryear through rose-colored goggles. *Vintage Tomorrows* touches on these issues but focuses more on the influences that led to the genre as well as the aesthetics and creativity it inspires. With commentary by luminaries like William Gibson and China Mieville as well as various insiders like Cherie Priest (author of *Boneshaker*), the film is a pleasant celebration of this geeky subgenre. (MARY TRAVERSE)

SIFF Says: Dive deep into the world of steampunk, the subgenre of science fiction inspired by 19th-century technology and aesthetics, in this documentary featuring appearances by authors William Gibson, China Miéville, and Cory Doctorow.

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Sun May 29, 3 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri June 3, 8:30 pm

KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER
Sun June 5, 1 pm

THE VIOLATORS

United Kingdom, 2015, 97 min
Dir. Helen Walsh

Stranger Says: *The Violators*, another tale of troubled teens



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The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



at odds with the world around them, revels in its atmospheric gloom. Fields of dead brush, dimly lit arcade halls, empty bedrooms save a mattress on the floor—these images are the images of struggling, abandoned youth. There is no false perception of suburbia, there is no real escape. These kids are the constant victims of circumstance. Throughout the movie, there are echoes of a better life; some wish fulfillment, a touching moment with an unexpected friend, even brief happiness. But survival, above all, is the goal in this bleak graphic account. (JACOB LICHTY) **SIFF Says:** A teenaged girl struggling to support her siblings in a dingy British housing project gets the news that her abusive father is about to be paroled, in this gritty tale of adolescence evoking the teen narratives of Andrea Arnold and Pawel Pawlikowski.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 8 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 6 pm

★ **THE VIOLIN TEACHER** ★
Brazil, 2015, 100 min
Dir. Sérgio Machado

Stranger Says: Lázaro Ramos captured the film-world's attention by way of 2002's *Madame Satã*, in which he played famed Brazilian convict-turned-drag performer João Francisco dos Santos. He's barely recognizable as the same actor in this reunion with *Lower City* director Sérgio Machado's *The Violin Teacher*, but he justifies that early hype. It's a more conventional film about a classical violinist who screws up his big audition and ends up teaching poverty-stricken teens, like the virtuosic Samuel (Kaique Jesus), in a São Paulo favela. The beats are familiar—man learns to love teaching, students learn to love man—but Ramos makes them count. (KATHY FENNESSY) **SIFF Says:** A former child prodigy reluctantly begins teaching music to youth in a troubled São Paulo neighborhood and discovers the transforming power of music, passion, and purpose in this inspiring Brazilian film based on a true story.

MAJESTIC BAY Fri May 20, 9:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat May 21, 12 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Wed May 25, 7 pm

★ **A WALK ON THE MOON** ★
USA, 1999, 107 min
Dir. Tony Goldwyn

SIFF Says: With an all-star cast including Diane Lane, Viggo Mortensen, Liev Schreiber, and Anna Paquin, director Tony Goldwyn's romantic drama takes place over the summer of 1969 against the backdrop of the impending moon landing and Woodstock.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 11 am

★ **WAREHOUSED** ★
Mexico, 2015, 90 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Jack Zagha

Stranger Says: A contemporary Mexican take on *Waiting for Godot*, but less absurdist and easier to digest. Instead of tackling ideas of God and religion, *Warehoused* comments on work and labor—the seemingly unquestioned ruler of our time. With deeply funny

and charismatic characters as well as engaging philosophical commentary, this is one of the few SIFF films sure to please any crowd. (JULIA RABAN)

SIFF Says: A hilarious and humane Mexican take on *Waiting for Godot* unfolds when a veteran warehouse supervisor and the rookie set to take his place develop a camaraderie while waiting for a delivery that may never arrive.

PACIFIC PLACE Sun May 22, 9 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 24, 3:30 pm

IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Sat May 28, 3:30 pm

★ **WE ARE X** ★

DOC USA, 2016, 89 min
Dir. Stephen Kijak

SIFF Says: Hugely influential in Japan, but relatively unknown in the U.S., flamboyant hard rock band X Japan ignited a musical revolution in the late-'80s known as "Visual-Kei" before ending in a tragedy-fueled split. Now, enigmatic leader Yoshiki is staging a comeback.

ARK LODGE CINEMA Sun June 5, 8:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Wed June 8, 9:30 pm

★ **THE WEEKEND SAILOR** ★

DOC Mexico, 2016, 74 min
Dir. Bernardo Arsuaga

Stranger Says: In 1973, after reading about the first around-the-world regatta in a magazine, Mexican businessman Ramon Carlin decides he wants to race. He had no boat, no crew, and little experience as a captain. He made a crew out of his family members and some ragtag international sailing adventurers. The Mexican boat was pooh-poohed by the European media, but they were a determined bunch—it's a true-life adventure story. There is neat original footage of the race, and all the crew members are interviewed to tell their version of events. There is a lot of specific information about sailing, but even if you don't care about that stuff, it is an incredible story. (GILLIAN ANDERSON) **SIFF Says:** In 1973, an inexperienced Mexican captain named Ramon Carlin battled boating veterans, public mockery, and the deadly sea when he competed in the first nine-month around-the-world regatta. Narrated by Duran Duran's Simon Le Bon.

MAJESTIC BAY Mon May 23, 6:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 3:30 pm

★ **WEINER** ★

DOC USA, 2016, 100 min
Dir. Josh Kriegman, Elyse Steinberg

Stranger Says: As everyone knows, sexts brought Anthony Weiner's brilliant political career to an end not once but twice. The first time, in 2011, was not fatal; the second time, in 2013, was. The first time cost him his seat in Congress; the second, his chance of becoming the mayor of NYC. The documentary is about his second and final fall. But the real star of this very entertaining documentary is Weiner's wife, Huma Abedin. Her face, her body, her movements are a ship that crosses the crises of her marriage with admirable steadiness. Her husband has only a poor idea of her greatness; Hillary Clinton, however, knows the real value of this woman, which is why she keeps Huma close to

her as she runs for president. In the documentary, we watch Huma dump her husband's political career for Hillary's. (CHARLES MUDEDE)

SIFF Says: Sexts, lies, and Carlos Danger: Go behind the scenes for the most jaw-dropping political meltdown in recent history as Anthony Weiner mounts his audacious, ill-fated comeback campaign for New York City mayor. Winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 4:30 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 6 pm

★ **WELCOME TO NORWAY!** ★
Norway, 2016, 90 min

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Rune Denstad Langlo

SIFF Says: A Norwegian loser comes up with a brilliant plan to save his family's fledgling ski resort—turn it into a state-funded refugee center—in this scandalous comedy from director Rune Denstad Langlo (*Chasing the Wind*).

MAJESTIC BAY Tue May 24, 6:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Wed May 25, 4:30 pm

LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Thu May 26, 9 pm

★ **WE THE PEOPLE 2.0** ★

DOC USA, 2016, 90 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. Leila Conners

Stranger Says: This moralizing documentary breathlessly documents the corrupting influence corporations and money are having on our political system. The problem: You know that already. *We the People 2.0* documents communities across the country fighting environmental ills with the help of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. The answer to a broken democracy, the CELDF argues, is to pass local laws granting communities and nature explicit rights to be safe from environmental destruction (despite state and federal laws allowing practices like fracking). "The people," the documentary proclaims, must take on "the corporate state" by challenging its laws. While the outrage in this documentary is in plentiful supply, the practical solutions are not. (HEIDI GROOVER) **SIFF Says:** Decades of toxic dumping, drilling, and mining have been destroying American small towns, and the residents have been powerless due to corporate government influence. Now, grassroots activists are leading a campaign to challenge the system head-on and save their communities.

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sat June 11, 6 pm

SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun June 12, 1:30 pm

★ **WHERE HAVE ALL THE GOOD MEN GONE** ★

Denmark, 2016, 93 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Dir. René Frelle Petersen

Stranger Says: Sofia (the very fine Julie Andersen), a surly 18-year-old, has a crap life by any standard. She lives in a dreary town and shares a trailer with her half-sister, Olivia (Simone Lykke), on her abusive stepfather's property. The men in their lives are shit, so they hit the road to find Sofia's long-lost father, except Adam (Alexandre Willaume) is a man with a serious case of PTSD, though there's a core of

The Stranger's SIFF NOTES



decency beneath the antisocial façade that Sofia is determined to uncover. As surly meets surlier, what starts out as a grim coming-of-age tale turns into a surprisingly affecting thriller. (KATHY FENNESSY)
SIFF Says: Yearning to find the biological father she never knew, Sofia and her naïve half-sister Olivia search far and wide and come upon a PTSD-suffering soldier in this harrowing coming-of-age drama.
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 20, 9 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Sun May 22, 11:30 am
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Tue May 31, 9 pm

WHILE THE WOMEN ARE SLEEPING
Japan, 2016, 103 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Wayne Wang

SIFF Says: The latest from Wayne Wang (*The Joy Luck Club*, *Smoke*) is a suspenseful psychological thriller in which a novelist stumbles upon a twisted plot when he makes fast friends with an aging voyeur (Beat Takeshi).
PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 27, 11 am
PACIFIC PLACE Thu June 2, 9:30 pm
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Mon June 6, 8:30 pm

WHISTLEBLOWER
Philippines, 2016, 75 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Adolfo Alix Jr.

SIFF Says: In this thriller in the tradition of Costa Gavras' *Z* and Ben Affleck's *Argo*, a Filipino accountant, adept at finding tax loopholes, turns the tables against her wealthy businesswoman employer in a far-reaching political scandal.
IKEA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Wed June 1, 6 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Thu June 2, 6 pm

★ **WIENER-DOG** ★
USA, 2016, 90 min
Dir. Todd Solondz

Stranger Says: The notion that Dawn Wiener from *Welcome to the Dollhouse* grew up to be Greta Gerwig is only the least tantalizing element of Todd Solondz's new film, which promises to continue the postmodern tricks that served him so beautifully in *Palindromes* and *Life During Wartime*. (SEAN NELSON)
SIFF Says: Director Todd Solondz assembled an illustrious cast—including Julie Delpy, Greta Gerwig, Danny DeVito, and Ellen Burstyn—for a collection of bitingly comedic character studies as seen through the eyes of an adorable dachshund.

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Sun May 29, 9:45 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon May 30, 4 pm

WOMEN HE'S UNDRESSED
Doc! Australia, 2015, 99 min
Dir. Gillian Armstrong

Stranger Says: At first you will think that this documentary, which is about the legendary and gay Australian-born costume designer Orry-Kelly, has no chance of surviving its staged dramatic sequences. They are not that good, not that funny, and too numerous. But the story of the man (and his masterpiece, Marilyn Monroe's form-perfect, nude-fantastic dress in *Some Like It Hot*) sustains and rewards your interest. You will also leave the doc with a really bad taste in your mouth about Cary Grant, Orry-Kelly's first big lover. That human was a real asshole. (CHARLES MUDEDE)
SIFF Says: Director Gillian Armstrong pays tribute to Australian Academy Award-winning costume designer Orry-Kelly, a little-celebrated hero of Hollywood's golden age who adorned the stars in such classics as *Some Like It Hot*, *Casablanca*, and *An American in Paris*, and was scandalously linked to Cary Grant as his former lover.
PACIFIC PLACE Fri May 27, 1:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Mon June 6, 7 pm

THE WOUNDED ANGEL
Kazakhstan, 2016, 112 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Emir Baigazin

Stranger Says: It's hard out here for a Kazakhstani teenager. There's a lot to deal with: your parents not getting along, peer pressure, you don't fit in, you don't get to do what you want, etc. The boys in these stories are all weirdos in their own way and not good at dealing with what's happening in their lives, and it all generally leads to various forms of juvenile delinquency. This movie includes many scenes of people sitting for long periods of time, stilted conversations, and slow-paced storytelling. (GILLIANANDERSON)
SIFF Says: Award-winning director Emir Baigazin (*Harmony Lessons*) returns with a quartet of poignant and nuanced tales about teenage boys in impoverished 1990s Kazakhstan struggling to find their way in a world of moral uncertainties.
PACIFIC PLACE Wed May 25, 4:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 9 pm
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Wed June 8, 8 pm

YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE
Chile, 2016, 81 min
U.S. PREMIERE
Dir. Alex Anwandter

SIFF Says: When his cross-dressing teenage son suffers a brutally violent attack, a mannequin-factory manager desperately seeks help and is forced to take matters into his own hands. Based on a true story.
PACIFIC PLACE Sun June 5, 9 pm
PACIFIC PLACE Mon June 6, 4:30 pm

ZOOM
Canada, 2015, 96 min
Dir. Pedro Morelli

Stranger Says: A comic book artist/sex doll designer's decision to get cosmetic surgery has a traumatic effect on the love life of one of her creations. Which, in turn, influences the work of a supermodel novelist. Or something along those lines, anyway. This live action/animated mash-up is undeniably clever, and not at all shy about trumpeting it. Good performances across the board, particularly by Alison Pill as the fulcrum point of all three overlapping narratives, but the aura of hipster smugness is strong. (ANDREW WRIGHT)
SIFF Says: A comic book artist insecure about her chest size, an action-movie director lacking his cocksure advantage, and a melancholy Brazilian model-turned-novelist share an interconnected fantasy world in this delightfully meta comedy.
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Tue May 31, 9:15 pm
SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN Wed June 1, 9:30 pm

★ **ZUD** ★
Germany, 2016, 85 min
NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE
Dir. Marta Minorowicz

Stranger Says: A financially teetering Mongolian family pins their hopes on their 11-year-old son's showing in an upcoming horse race. This feature debut of director Marta Minorowicz uses its combination of widescreen vistas and mundane tasks to frequently stunning effect, including a jarringly matter-of-fact moment of impromptu horse dentistry. Compelling and fiercely gorgeous, even when it occasionally drifts into downright miserablism. (ANDREW WRIGHT)
SIFF Says: In order to pay off his family's mounting debts, an 11-year-old Mongolian boy enters a semi-wild horse race, braving the elements as he gallops across the frozen steppe in this thrilling ethnographic adventure filmed in stunning panoramic widescreen.
MAJESTIC BAY Mon May 23, 4 pm
LINCOLN SQUARE CINEMAS Wed May 25, 6:30 pm
SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN Fri May 27, 9 pm

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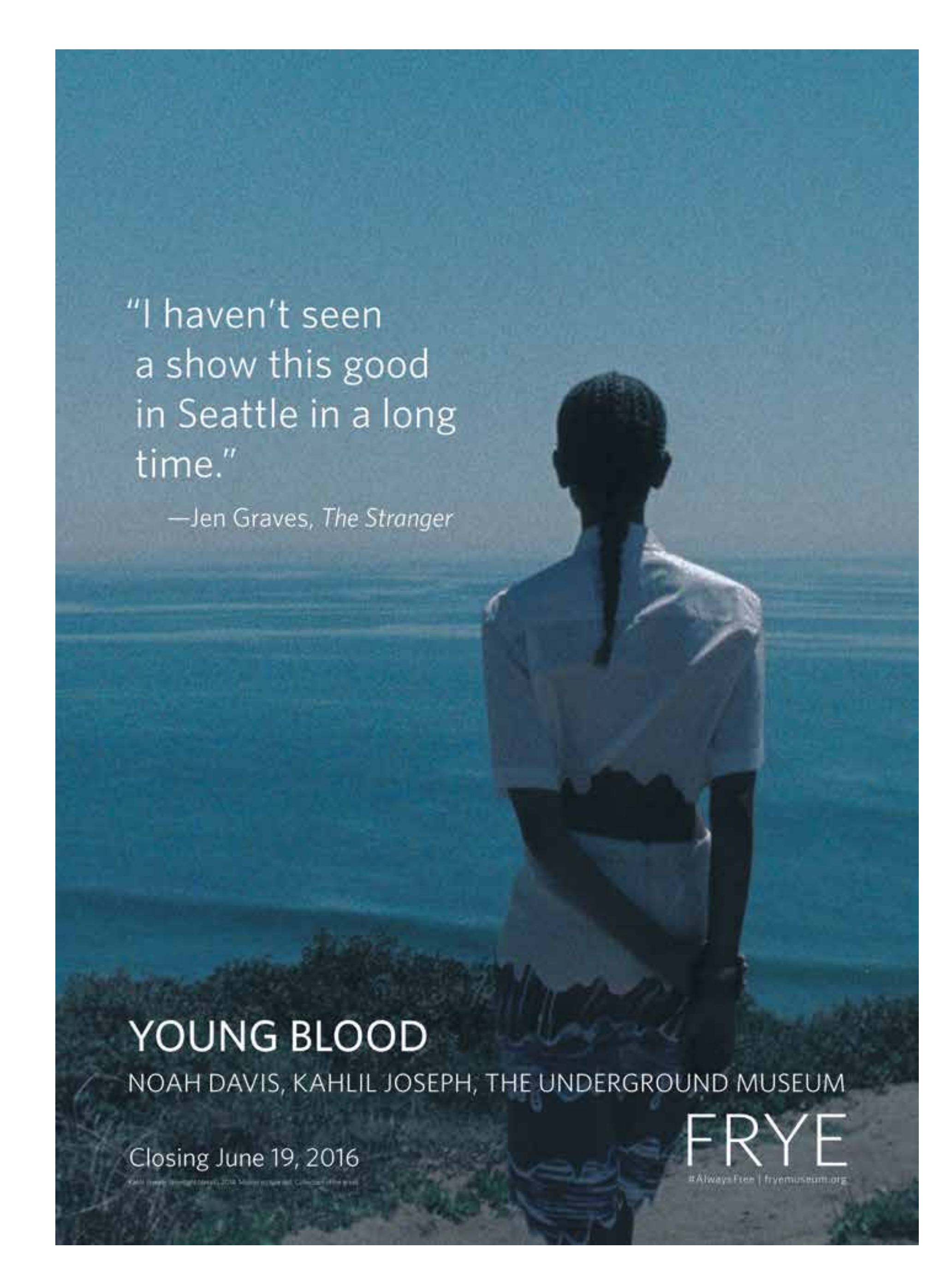
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